National Survey of Bangladeshi Public Opinion

April 10 – May 21, 2018

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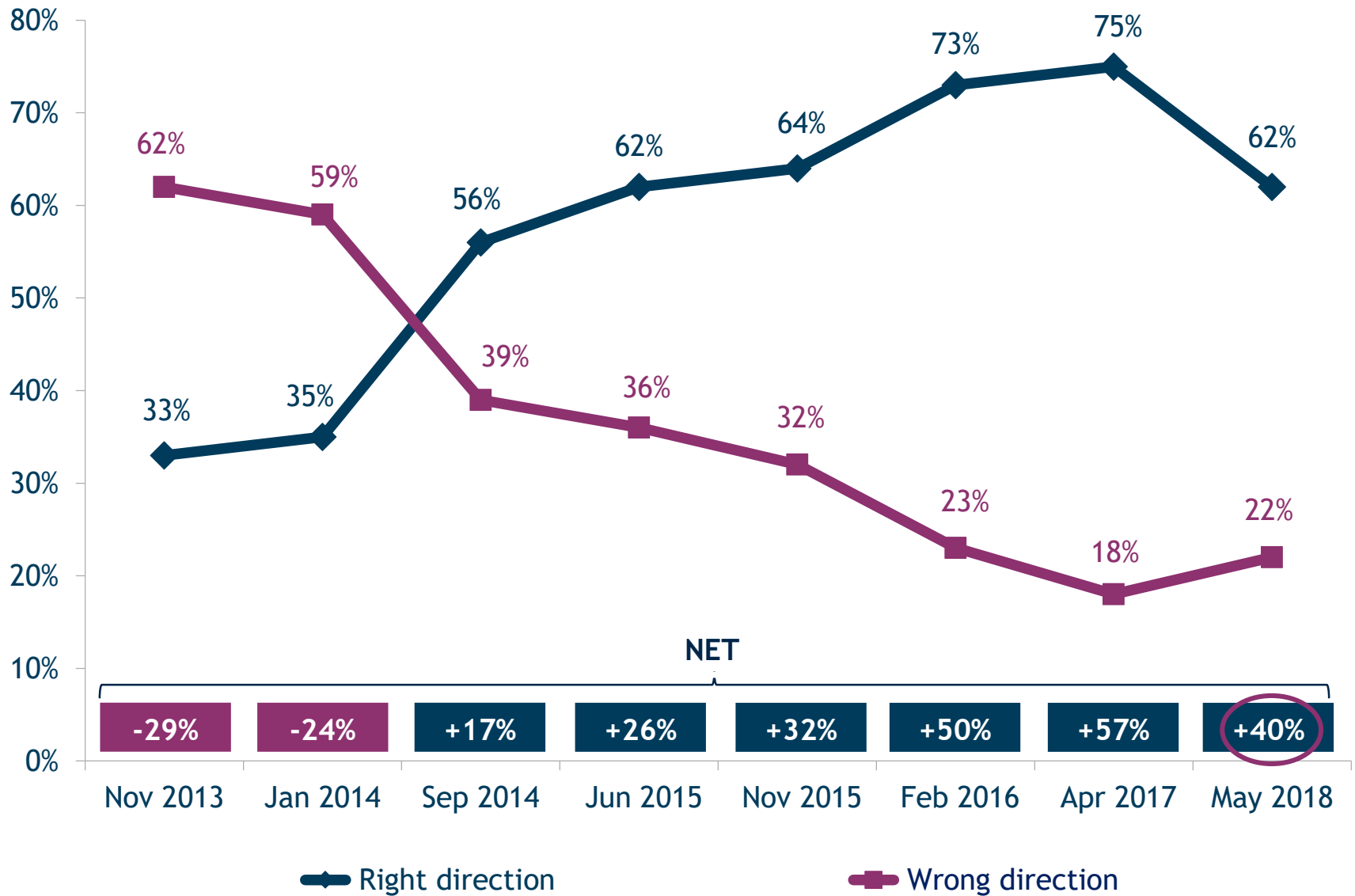A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted by IRI's Center for Insights in Survey Research and Creative Research and Development under the supervision of Rob Varsalone, PRC and Dr. Mark Lyon of Redstone Scientific between April 10 to May 21, 2018.

- Data was collected using a multi-stage stratified probability sample through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by division, by district, and by urban and rural locations.

- The sample consists of 5,000 respondents aged 18 and older, and is representative of voting-age adults nationally.

- The sample was distributed into 500 primary sampling units (PSU) from all 64 districts of all eight divisions. PSUs were defined as *mouza* in rural areas and *mahalla* in urban areas.

- The probability-proportional-to-size method was used to select localities. After identifying a centrally-located starting point, Systematic Random Sampling was used to select the appropriate household. Within each household, the Kish Grid was used to select respondents 18 years and older. A gender quota was implemented at the PSU level in order to ensure representativeness.

- Interview teams were comprised of both men and women.

- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus 1.4 percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent. This does not take into account the design effect. The response rate was 52 percent.

- Adjustments to question wording and order between the April 2017 and May 2018 surveys might contribute to some of the fluctuations seen in certain questions.

- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Political and Economic Indicators

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Do you believe things in Bangladesh are heading in the right or wrong direction?

	Nov 2013	Jan 2014	Sep 2014	Jun 2015	Nov 2015	Feb 2016	Apr 2017	May 2018
Right direction	33%	35%	56%	62%	64%	73%	75%	62%
Wrong direction	62%	59%	39%	36%	32%	23%	18%	22%
NET	-29%	-24%	+17%	+26%	+32%	+50%	+57%	+40%

Right direction ◆ Wrong direction ■

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Why do you say right direction?
(Open-ended; respondents who said right direction: n=3,079)

Improved economy	46%
Transportation infrastructure	11%
Educational improvements	9%
Overall development	8%
Digital Bangladesh*	6%
Law and order	6%
Declining terrorism	3%
Electricity production	3%
Improved telecommunications	2%
Improved healthcare	2%
Other	2%
Don't know/Refused to answer	2%

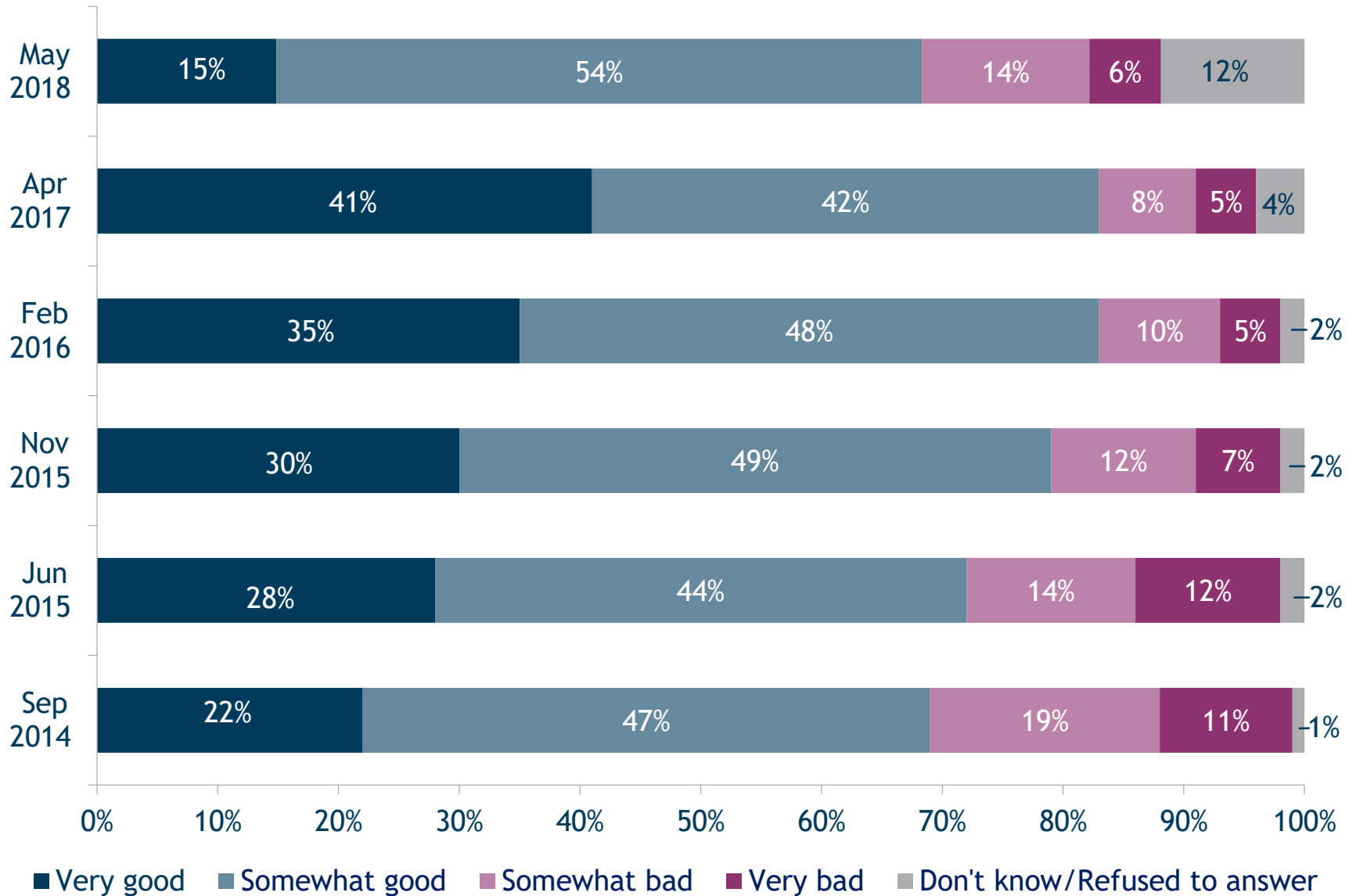|	
Economy	46%
Development	34%
Security	9%
Education	9%
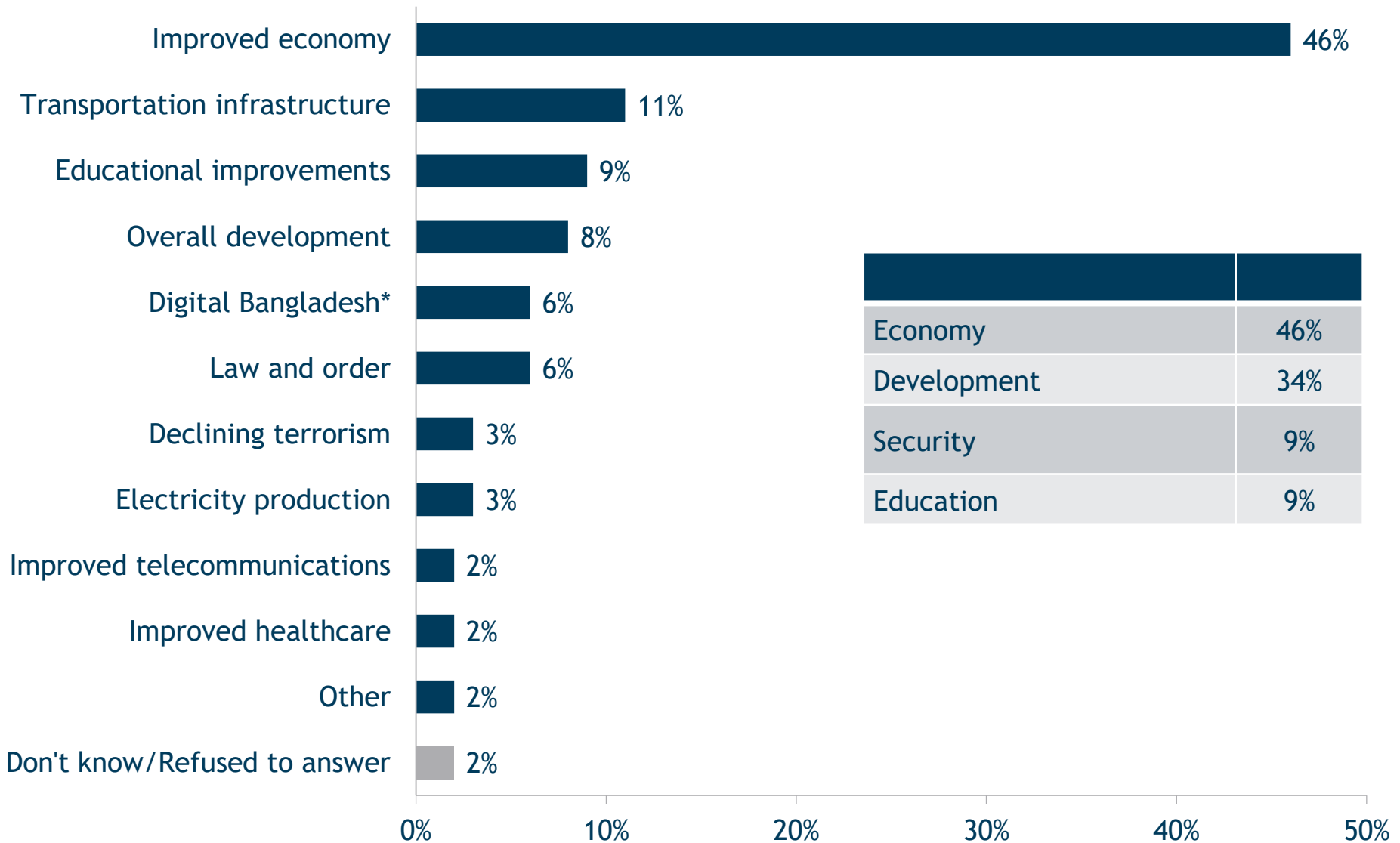
*A government initiative part of the Vision 2021 to increase the use of computers and open source software
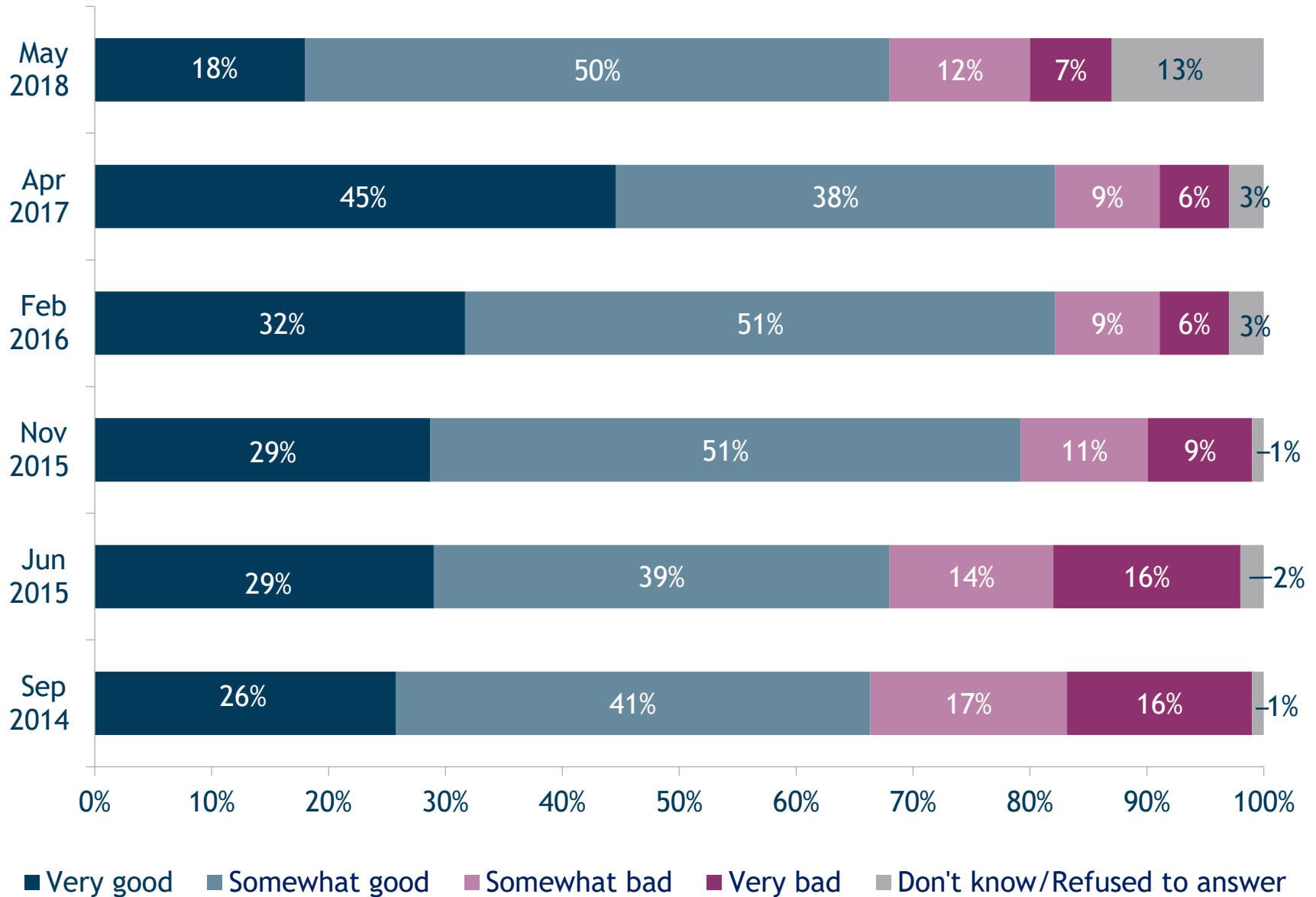
Why do you say wrong direction?
(Open-ended; respondents who said wrong direction: n=1,114)

Category	
Bad economy	21%
One-sided government	12%
Decline in law and order	10%
Lack of democracy	9%
Increasing corruption	8%
Poor transportation system	7%
No freedom of expression	5%
Poor security	4%
Political instability	4%
Electricity crisis	4%
Overcrowding	2%
Lack of caretaker gov't	1%
Poor telecommunications	1%
Opposition boycott	1%
Poor education system	1%
Gas shortage	1%
Hartals	1%
Other	5%
Don't know/Refused to answer	2%

Political	33%
Economy	21%
Security	14%
Infrastructure	13%
Corruption	8%

Hartal: strike action; organized closing down of shops and offices as a form of political protest

Overall, how would you rate the current economic situation in Bangladesh?

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	15%	54%	14%	6%	12%
Apr 2017	41%	42%	8%	5%	4%
Feb 2016	35%	48%	10%	5%	2%
Nov 2015	30%	49%	12%	7%	2%
Jun 2015	28%	44%	14%	12%	2%
Sep 2014	22%	47%	19%	11%	1%

■ Very good ■ Somewhat good ■ Somewhat bad ■ Very bad ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Overall, how would you rate the current security situation in Bangladesh?

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	18%	50%	12%	7%	13%
Apr 2017	45%	38%	9%	6%	3%
Feb 2016	32%	51%	9%	6%	3%
Nov 2015	29%	51%	11%	9%	1%
Jun 2015	29%	39%	14%	16%	2%
Sep 2014	26%	41%	17%	16%	1%

■ Very good ■ Somewhat good ■ Somewhat bad ■ Very bad ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Overall, how would you rate the current level of political stability in Bangladesh?

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	8%	40%	19%	12%	21%
Apr 2017	27%	41%	11%	6%	15%
Feb 2016	19%	58%	9%	7%	8%
Nov 2015	21%	49%	9%	13%	8%
Jun 2015	22%	42%	11%	18%	7%
Sep 2014	19%	40%	22%	16%	3%

■ Very good ■ Somewhat good ■ Somewhat bad ■ Very bad ■ Don't know/Refused to answer
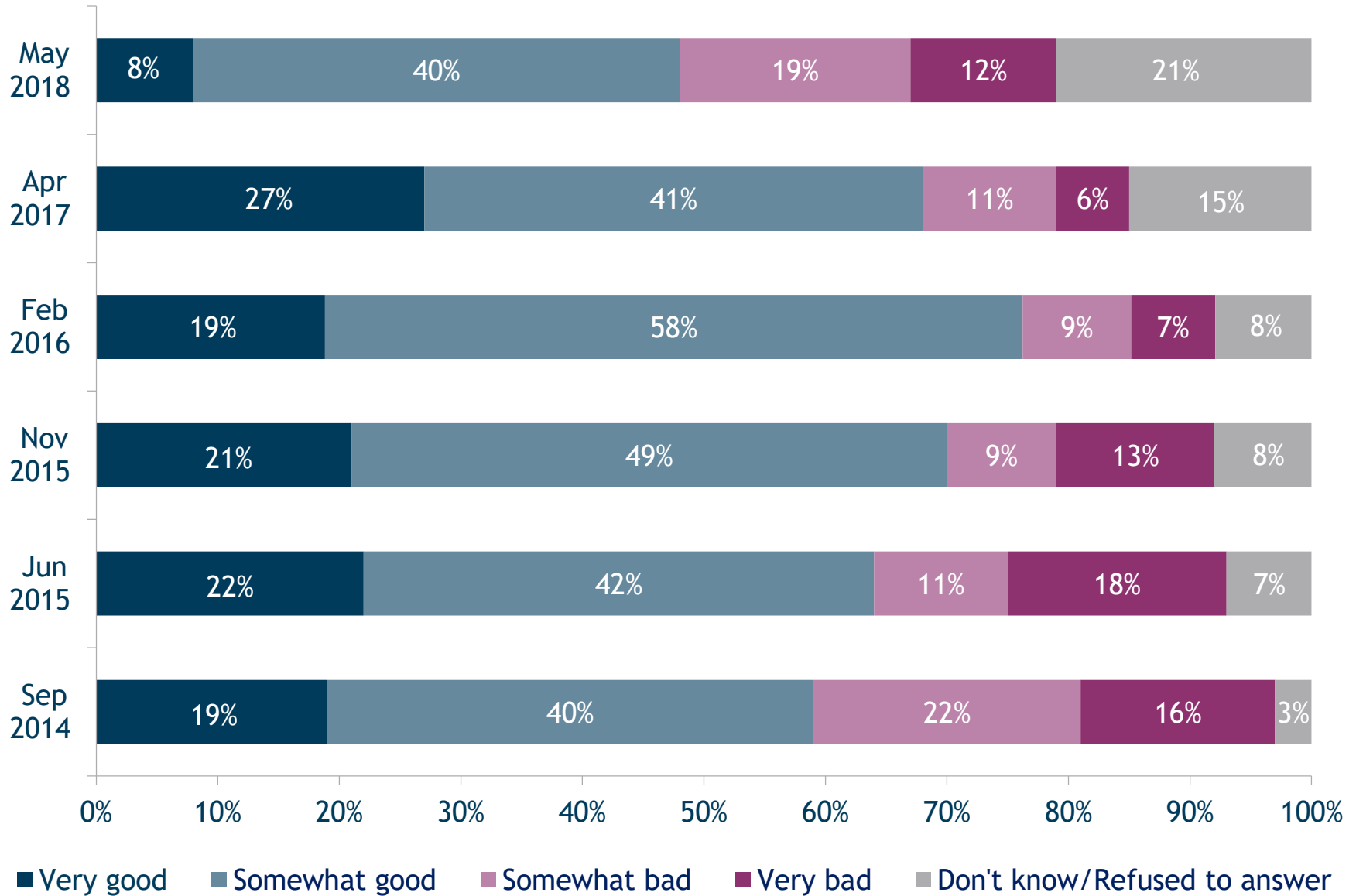
**Note: Scale for previous surveys was "very stable", "somewhat stable", "somewhat unstable", and "very unstable".

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In the year ahead do you think that the security situation will improve, worsen or stay the same?

Apr 2017

- 55% — Improve
- 6% — Stay the same
- 9% — Worsen
- 21% — Don't know/Refused to answer

May 2018

- 45% — Improve
- 12% — Stay the same
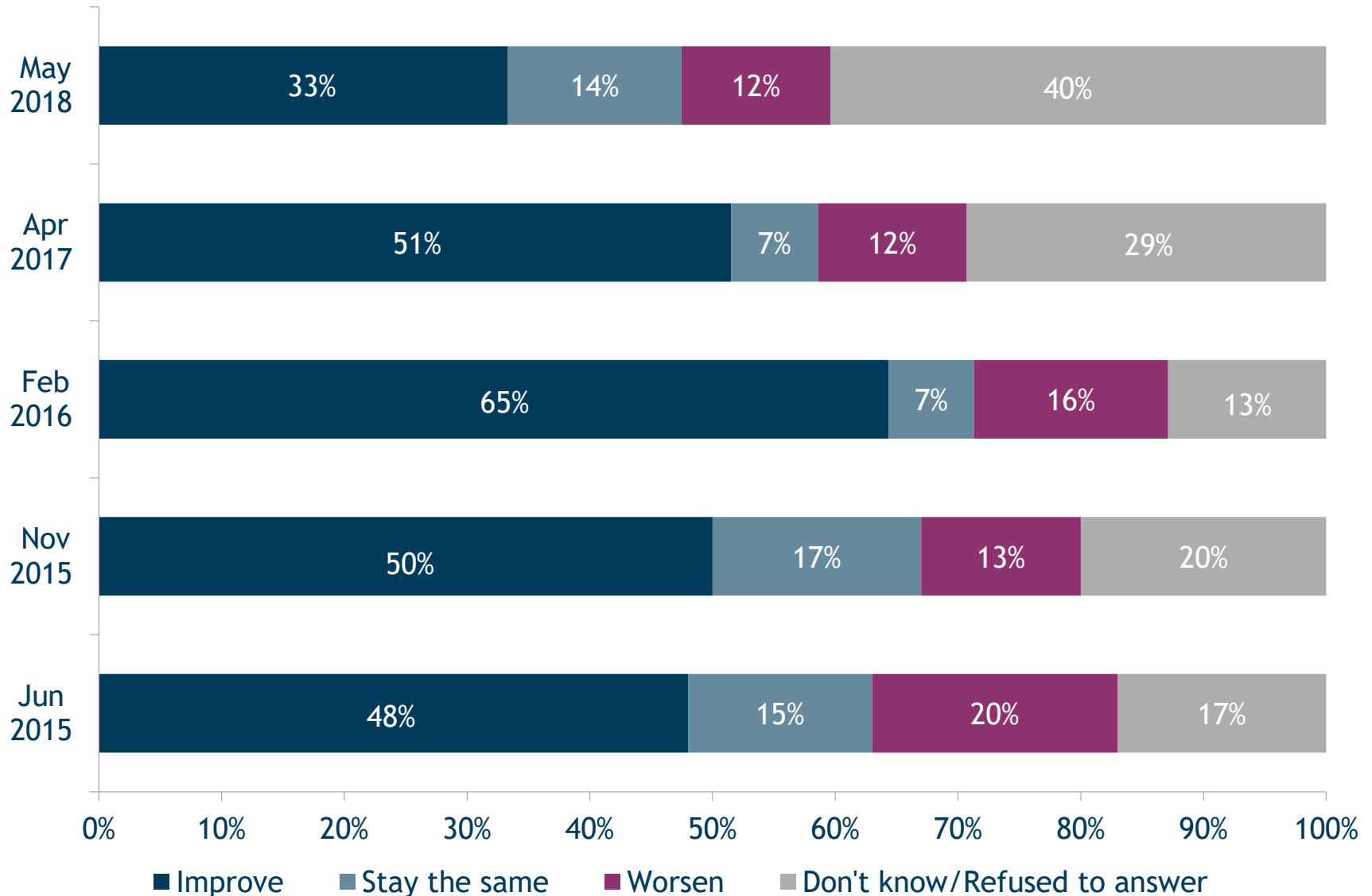- 9% — Worsen
- 35% — Don't know/Refused to answer
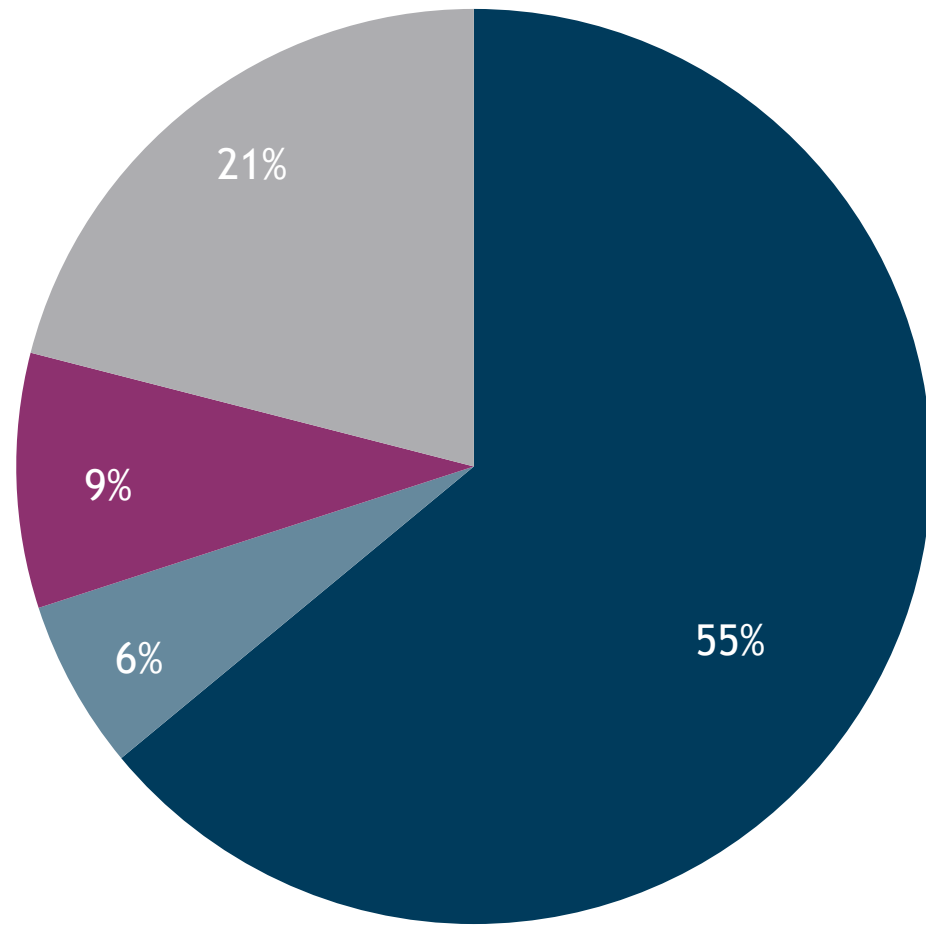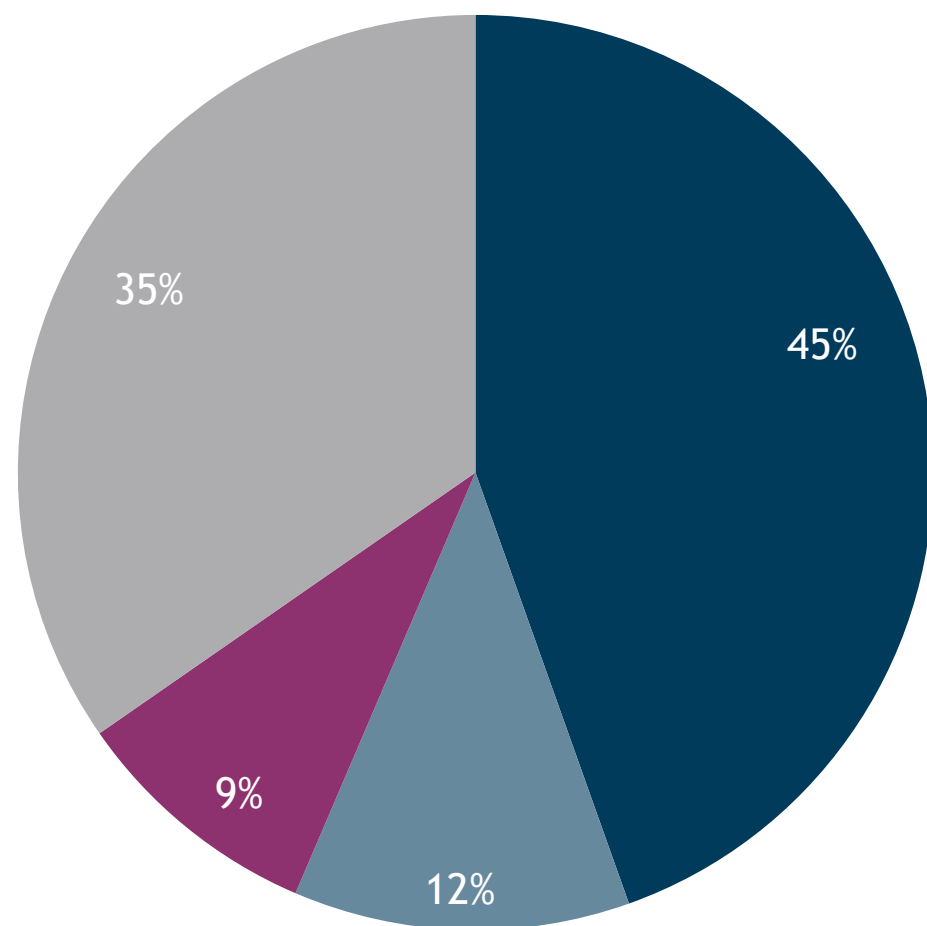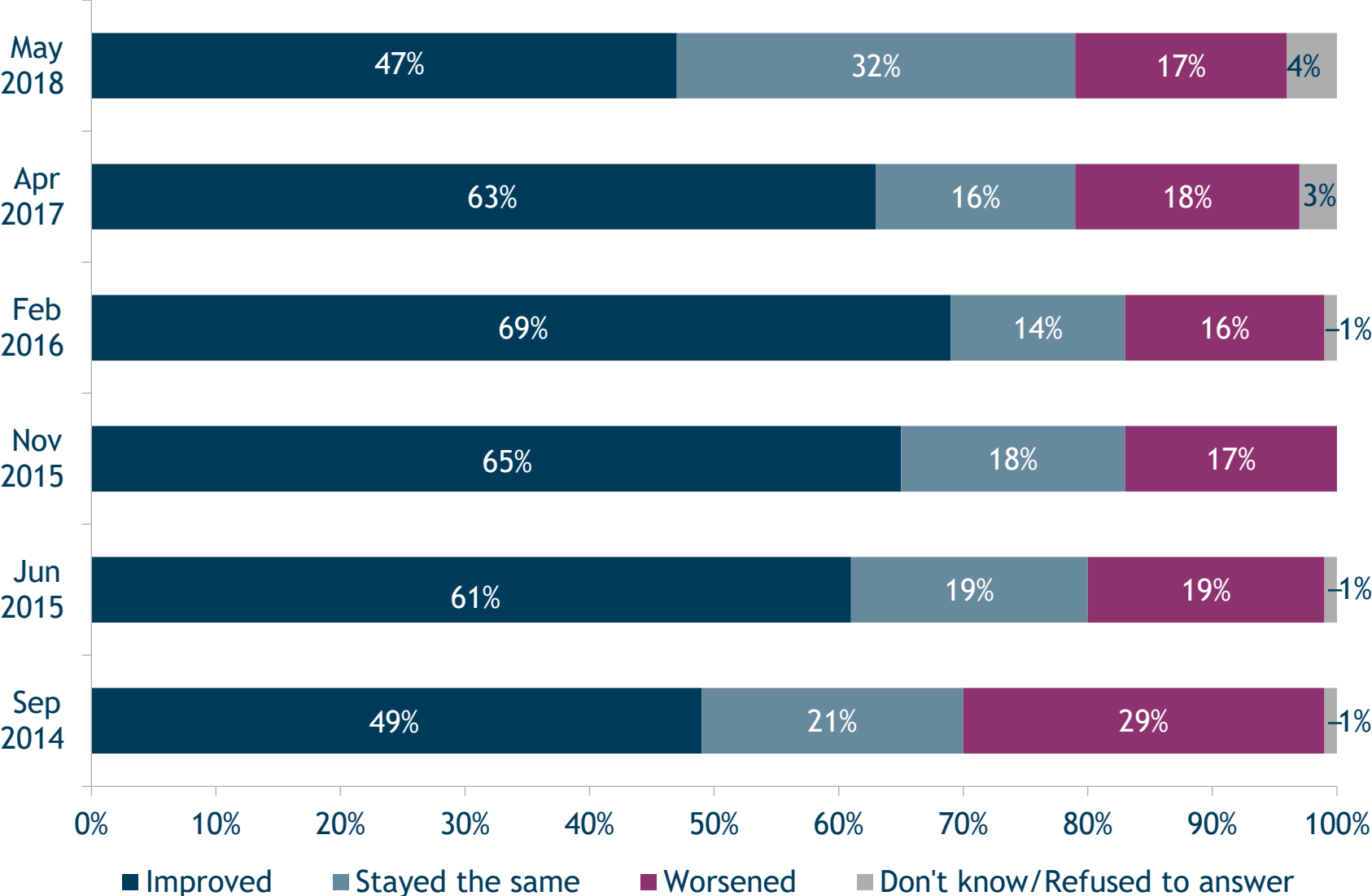
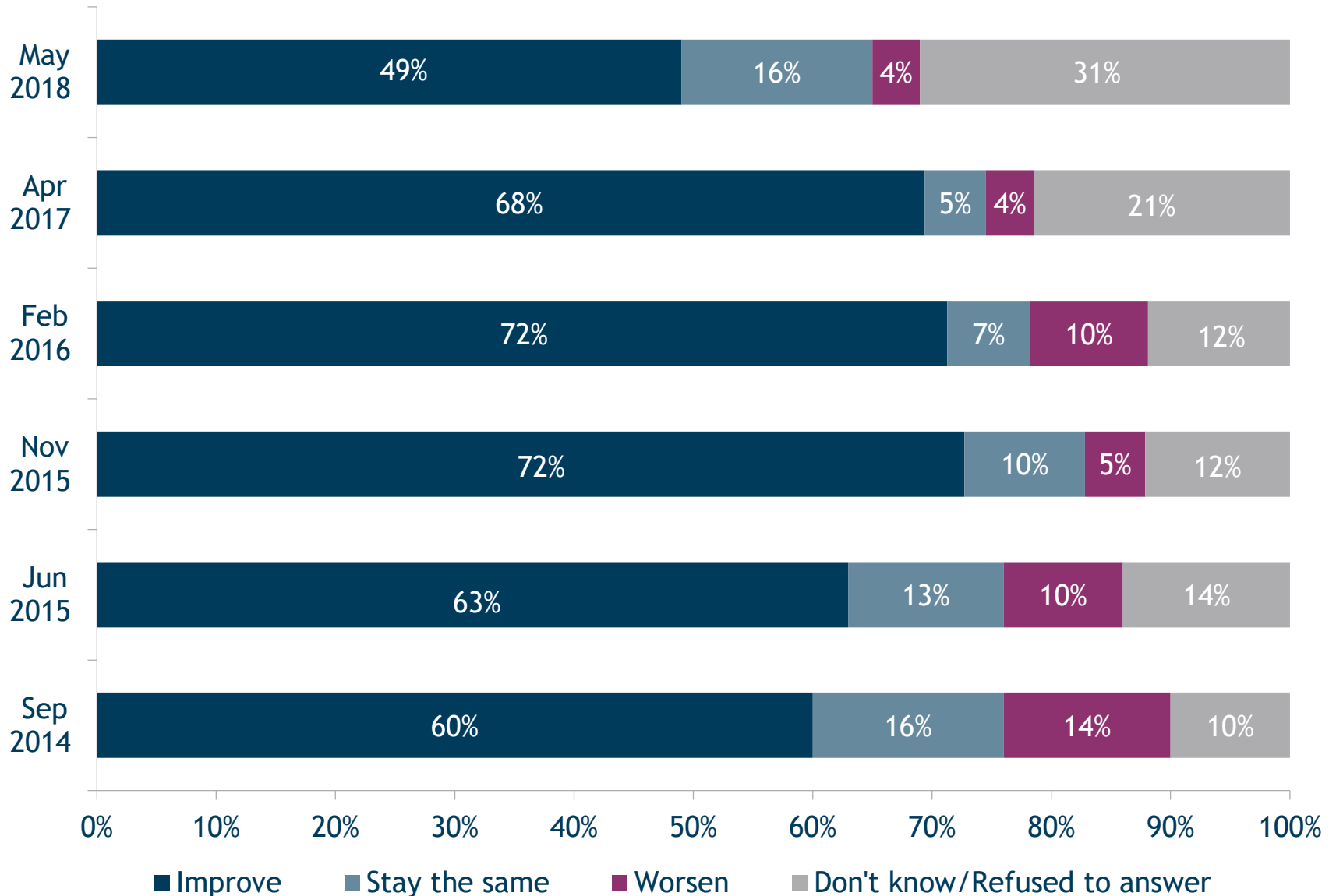**Legend:** ■ Improve ■ Stay the same ■ Worsen ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

In the year ahead do you think the level of political stability in Bangladesh will improve, worsen or stay the same?

	Improve	Stay the same	Worsen	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	33%	14%	12%	40%
Apr 2017	51%	7%	12%	29%
Feb 2016	65%	7%	16%	13%
Nov 2015	50%	17%	13%	20%
Jun 2015	48%	15%	20%	17%

Thinking about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the past year has it improved, worsened or stayed the same?

	Improved	Stayed the same	Worsened	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	47%	32%	17%	4%
Apr 2017	63%	16%	18%	3%
Feb 2016	69%	14%	16%	1%
Nov 2015	65%	18%	17%	
Jun 2015	61%	19%	19%	1%
Sep 2014	49%	21%	29%	1%

■ Improved ■ Stayed the same ■ Worsened ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Thinking some more about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the coming year do you think it will improve, worsen or stay the same?
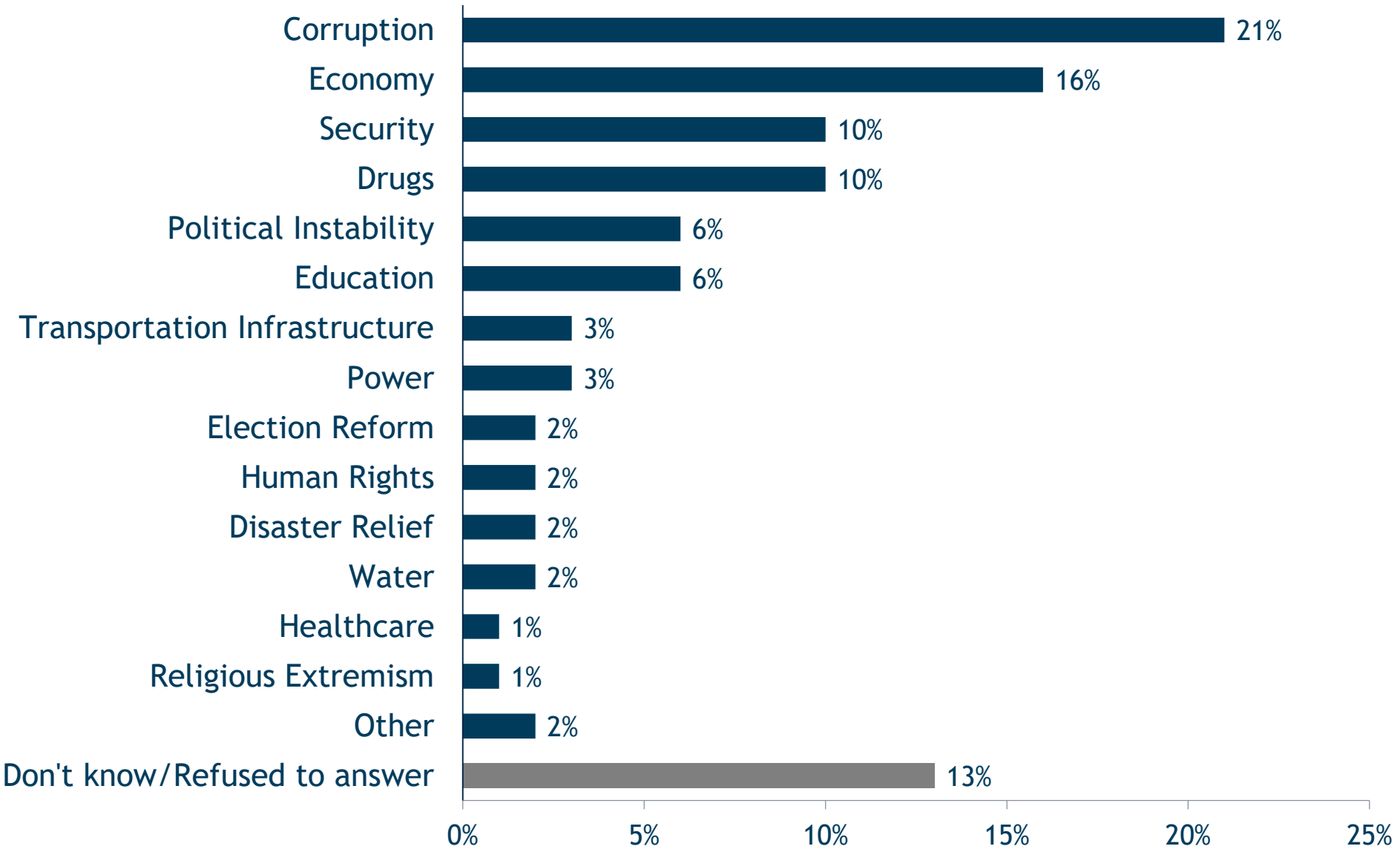

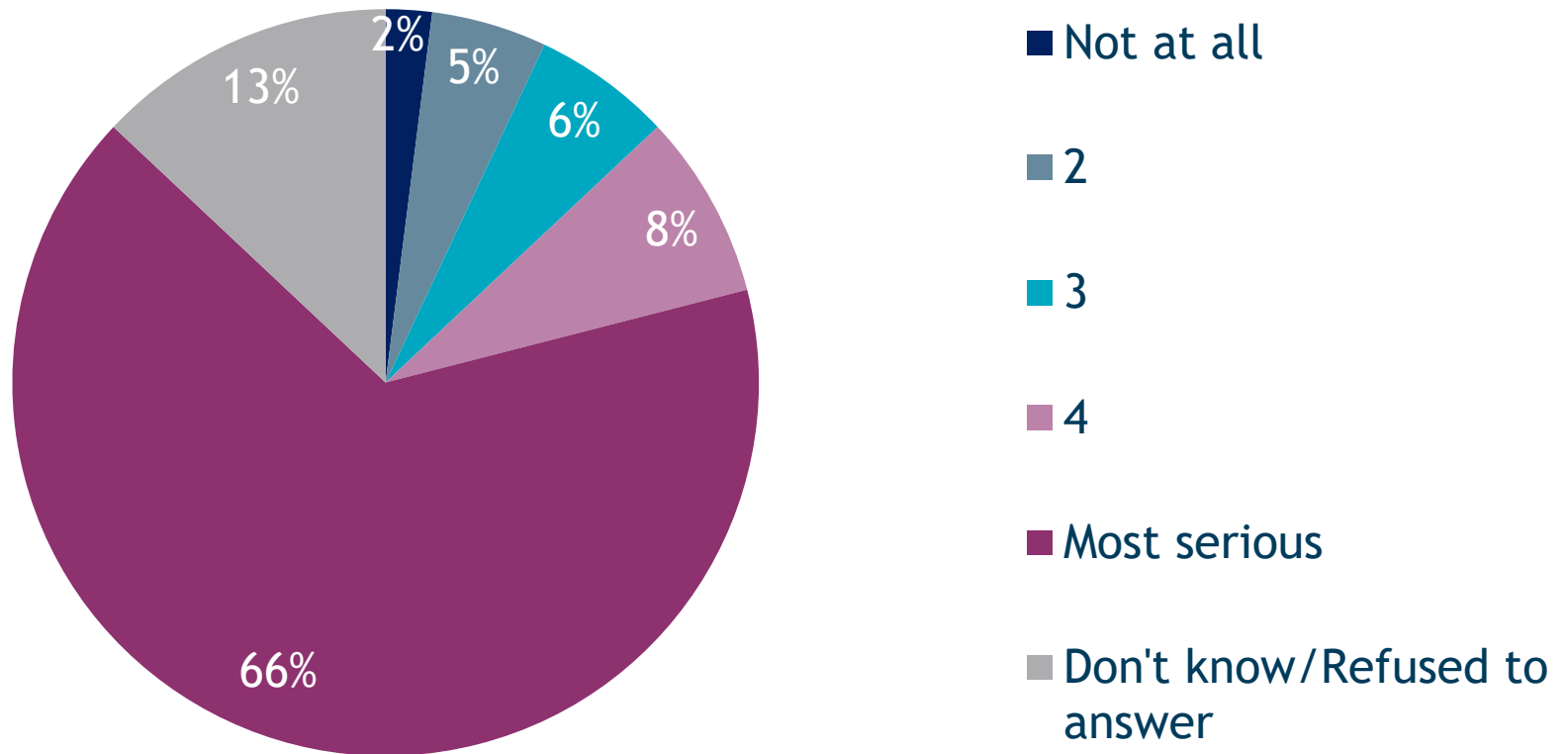| Date	Improve	Stay the same	Worsen	Don't know/Refused to answer
May 2018	49%	16%	4%	31%
Apr 2017	68%	5%	4%	21%
Feb 2016	72%	7%	10%	12%
Nov 2015	72%	10%	5%	12%
Jun 2015	63%	13%	10%	14%
Sep 2014	60%	16%	14%	10%

■ Improve ■ Stay the same ■ Worsen ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Priority Issues

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What is the single most important problem in Bangladesh? (Open-ended)

Problem	Percentage
Corruption	21%
Economy	16%
Security	10%
Drugs	10%
Political Instability	6%
Education	6%
Transportation Infrastructure	3%
Power	3%
Election Reform	2%
Human Rights	2%
Disaster Relief	2%
Water	2%
Healthcare	1%
Religious Extremism	1%
Other	2%
Don't know/Refused to answer	13%

On a scale of one to five, to what extent do you think that corruption is a problem in Bangladesh, with one being not a problem at all and five being the most serious problem?
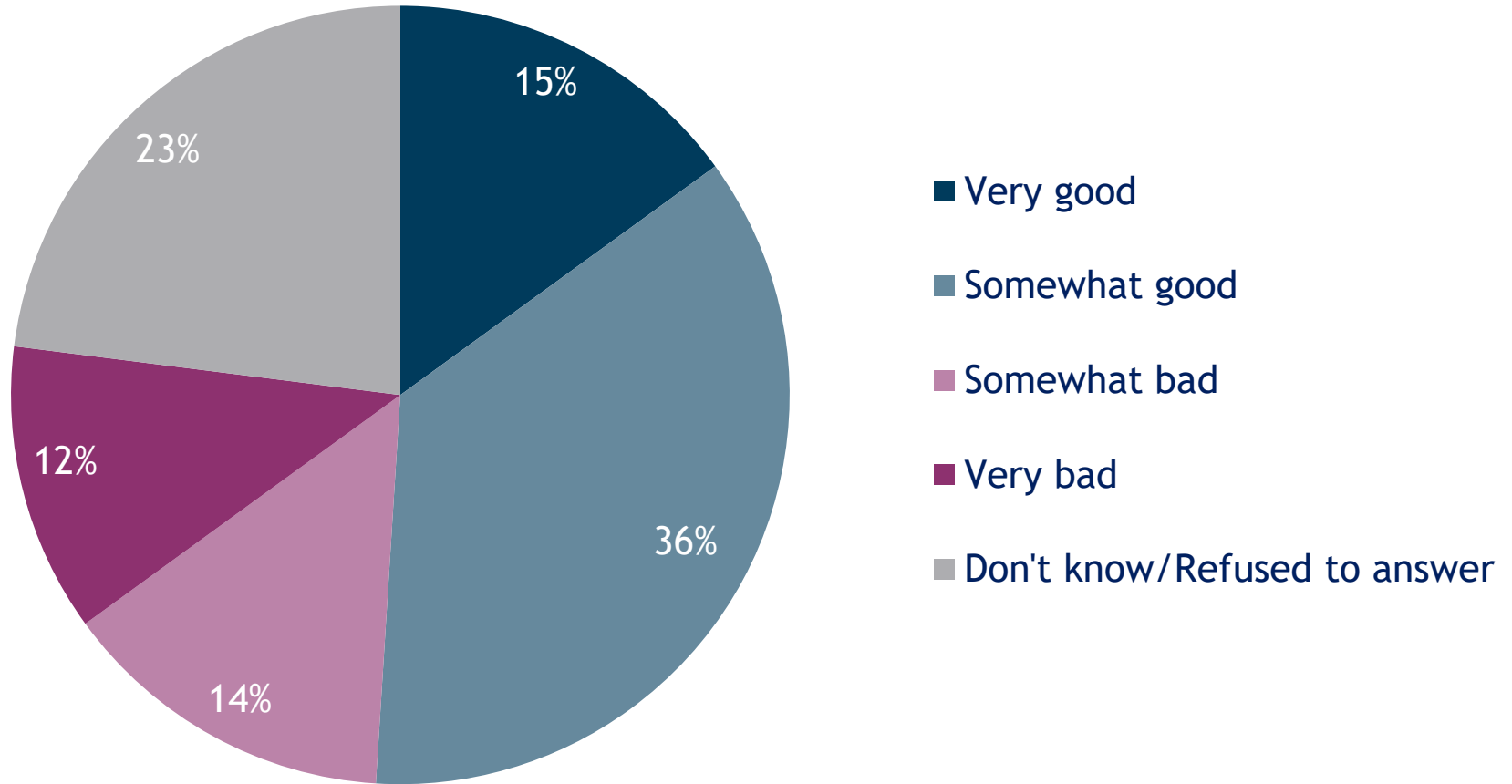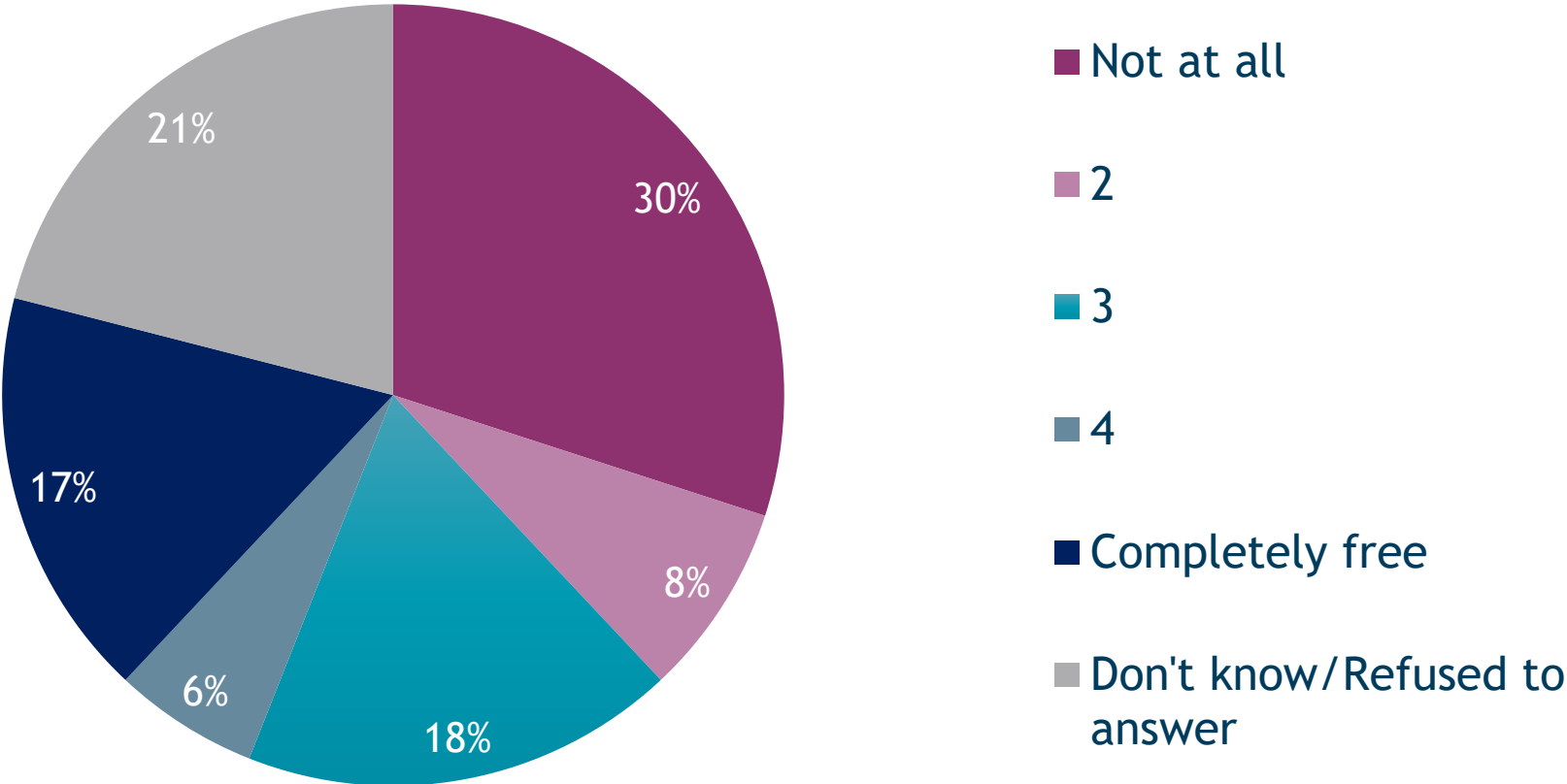
Mean = 4.5

Legend:
- Not at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Most serious
- Don't know/Refused to answer

Pie chart values: 2%, 5%, 6%, 8%, 66%, 13%

State of Democracy in Bangladesh

How would rate the current state of Bangladesh's democracy, would you say it is good or bad? And would you say that it is very or somewhat good/bad?

- Very good — 15%
- Somewhat good — 36%
- Somewhat bad — 14%
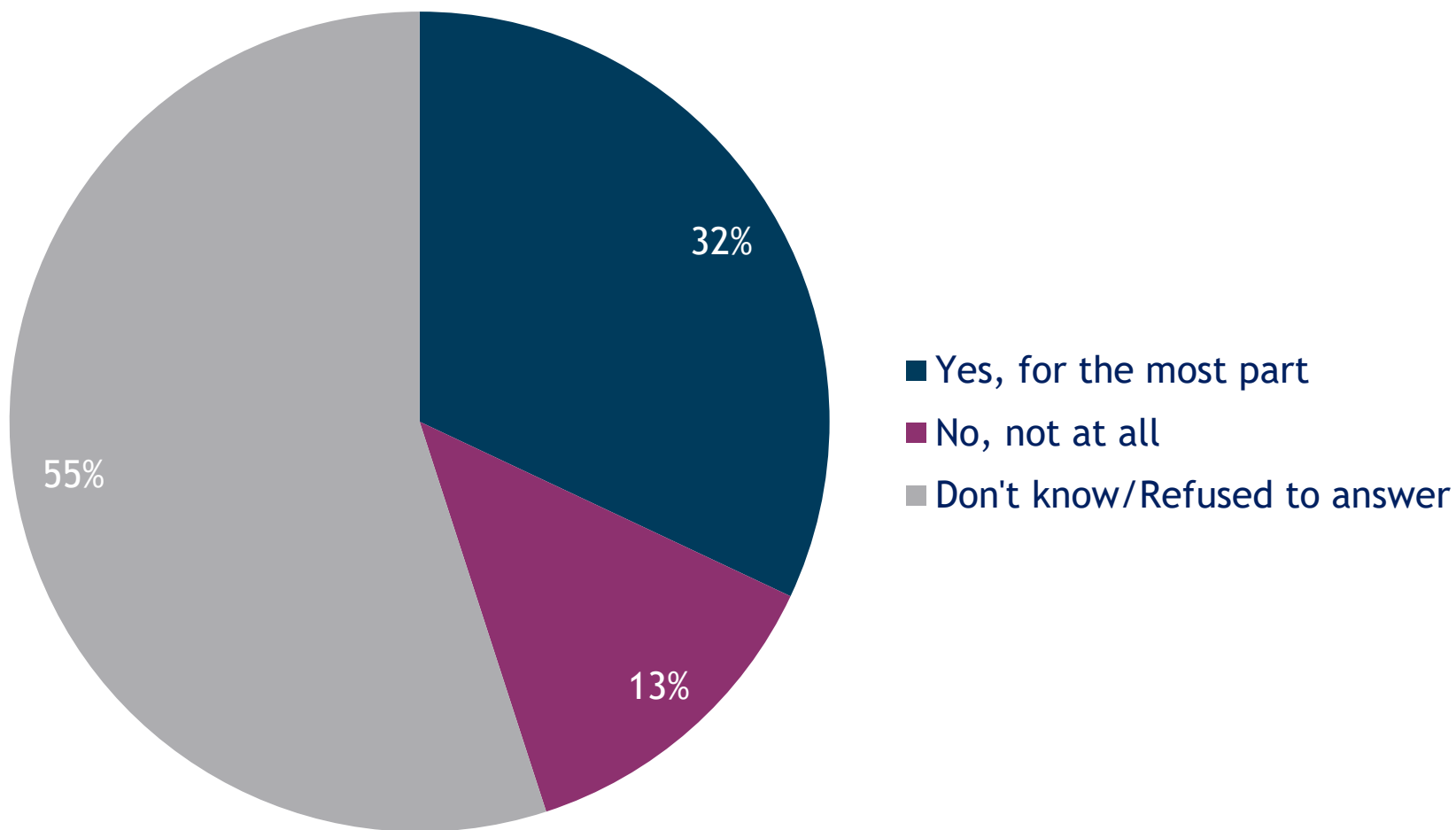- Very bad — 12%
- Don't know/Refused to answer — 23%

On a scale from one to five, to what extent do you think that people in Bangladesh feel free to publicly express their political opinions, with one being they do not feel free to express their opinions at all, and five being they feel completely free to express their opinions?

Mean=2.66

Legend:
- Not at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Completely free
- Don't know/Refused to answer

Pie chart values: 30%, 8%, 18%, 6%, 17%, 21%

Do you think that the upcoming elections will be free and fair?

32%

55%

13%

- Yes, for the most part
- No, not at all
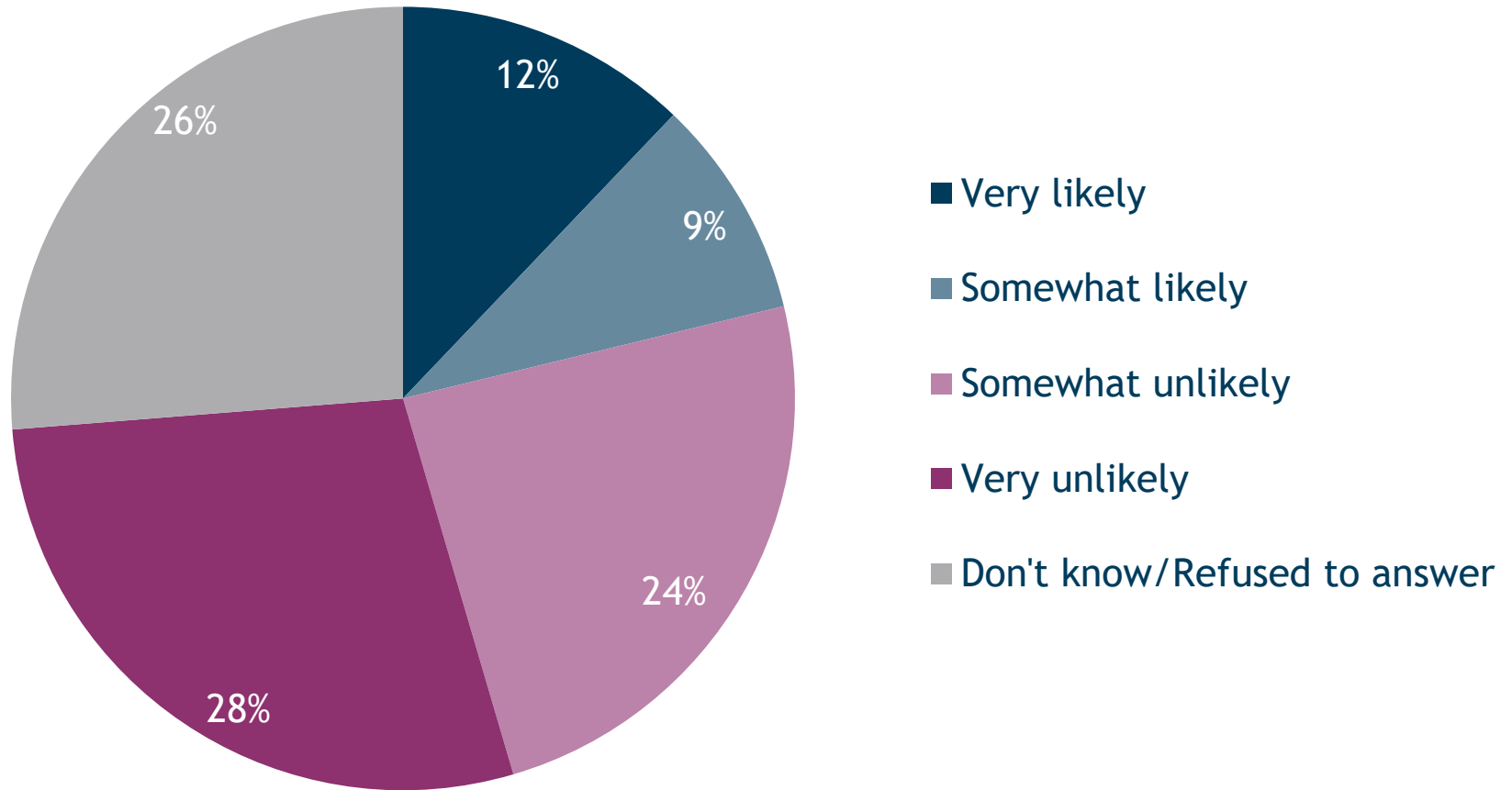- Don't know/Refused to answer

Youth

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Disclaimer: This section was not originally included in the initial release of this poll as youth was not the focus of the poll. The following 5 slides were added on 11/06/18 to add supplementary detail.
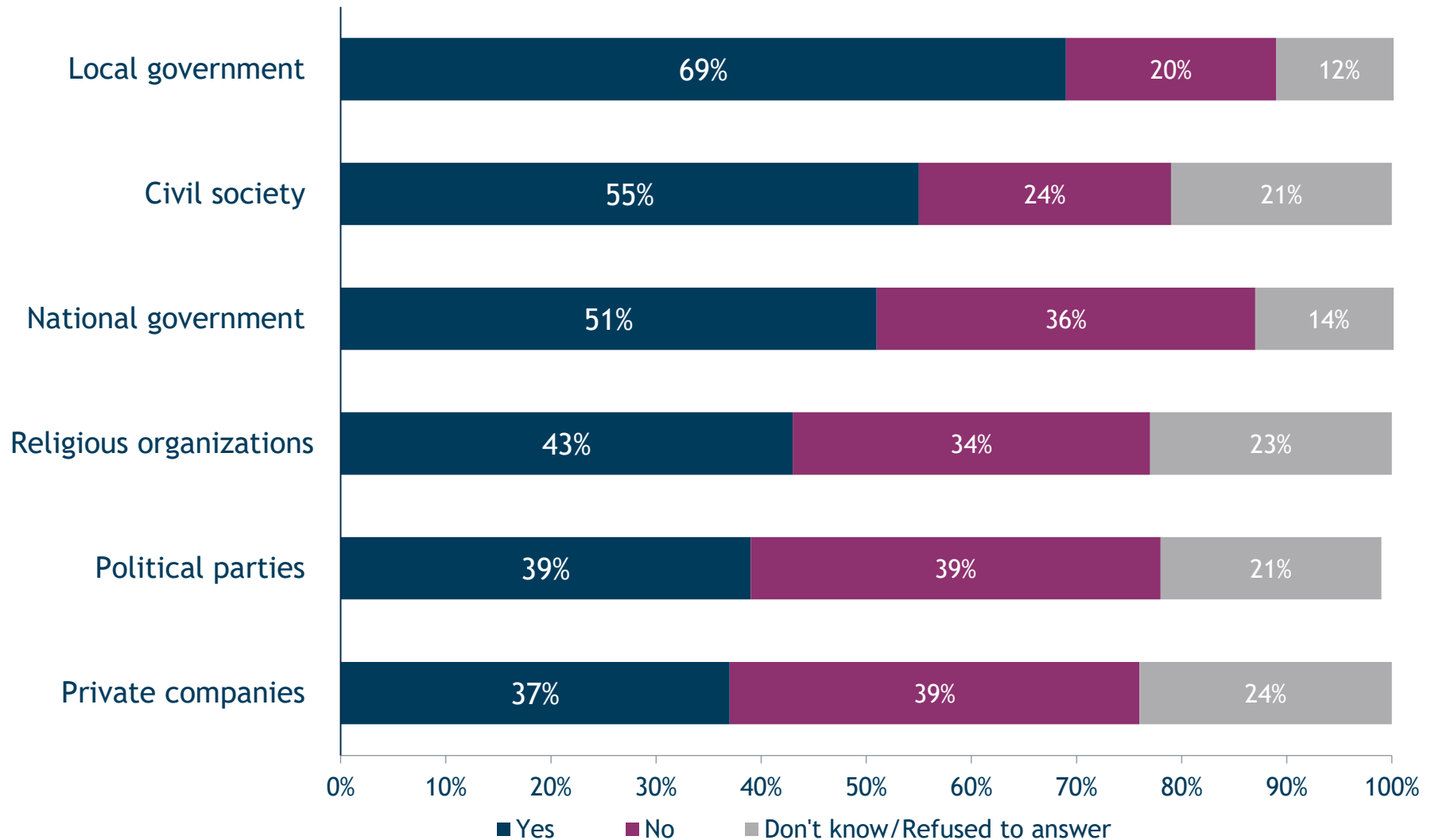
How likely, if at all, are you to run for local or national office by the age of 35?
(Asked only of respondents 35 years of age and younger; n= 2,204)

Legend:
- Very likely — 12%
- Somewhat likely — 9%
- Somewhat unlikely — 24%
- Very unlikely — 28%
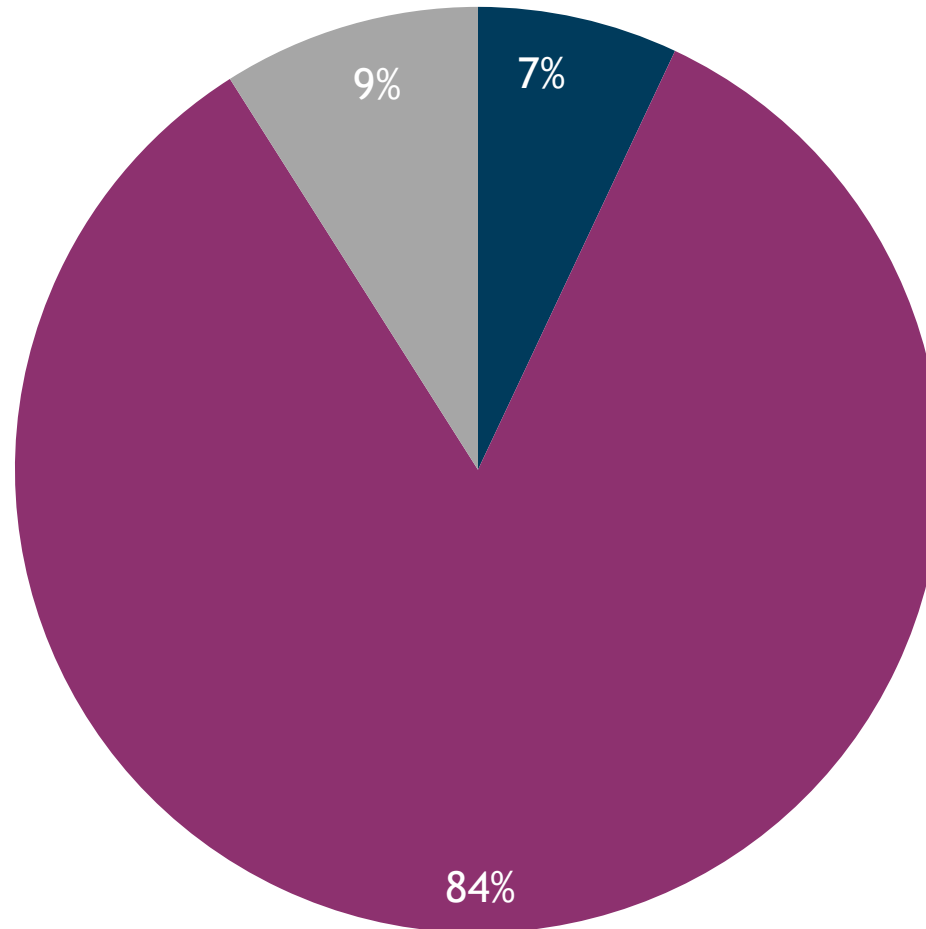- Don't know/Refused to answer — 26%

Which organizations do you consider effective in addressing challenges your country and community may face?
(35 years old and under who are interested in community service; n= 1,496)

Organization	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused to answer
Local government	69%	20%	12%
Civil society	55%	24%	21%
National government	51%	36%	14%
Religious organizations	43%	34%	23%
Political parties	39%	39%	21%
Private companies	37%	39%	24%

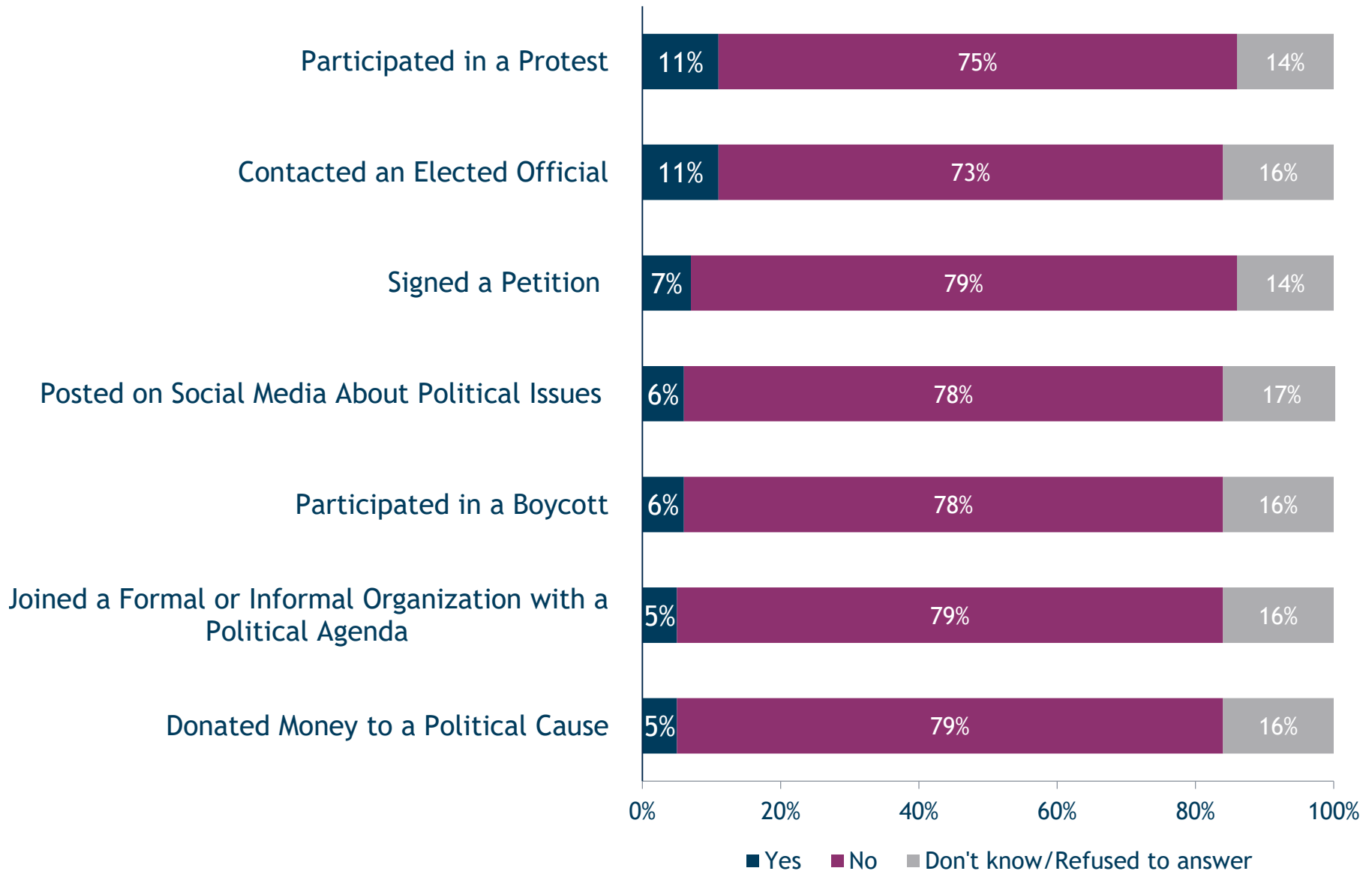Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Are you a member of a political party?
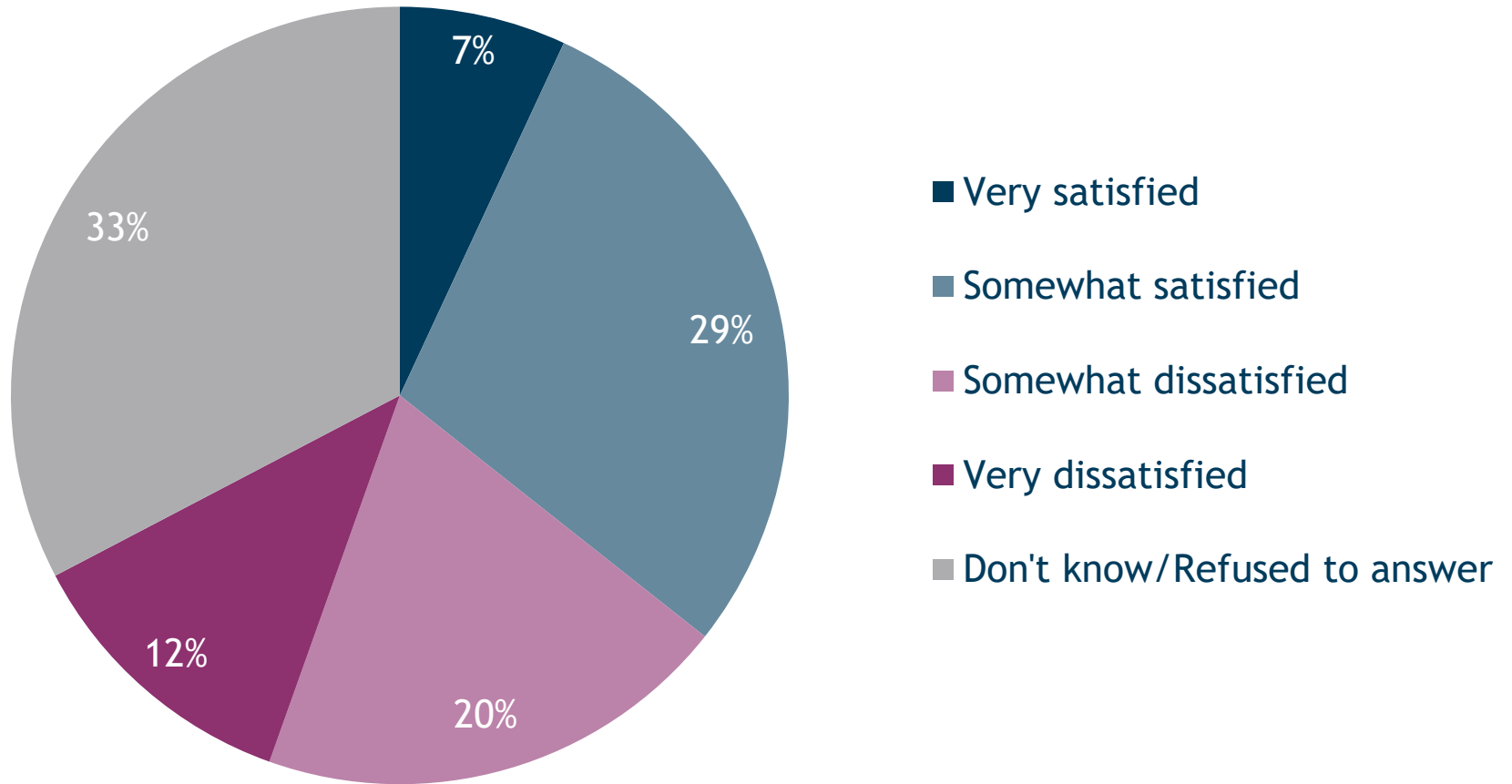## (Asked only of respondents 35 years of age and younger; n= 2,204)

7%

9%

84%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Have you ever engaged in any of the following activities?
(Asked only of respondents 35 years of age and younger; n= 2,204)

Activity	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused to answer
Participated in a Protest	11%	75%	14%
Contacted an Elected Official	11%	73%	16%
Signed a Petition	7%	79%	14%
Posted on Social Media About Political Issues	6%	78%	17%
Participated in a Boycott	6%	78%	16%
Joined a Formal or Informal Organization with a Political Agenda	5%	79%	16%
Donated Money to a Political Cause	5%	79%	16%

Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

How satisfied are you with the media's portrayal of young people? (Asked only of respondents 35 years of age and younger; n= 2,204)

- ■ Very satisfied
- ■ Somewhat satisfied
- ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ■ Very dissatisfied
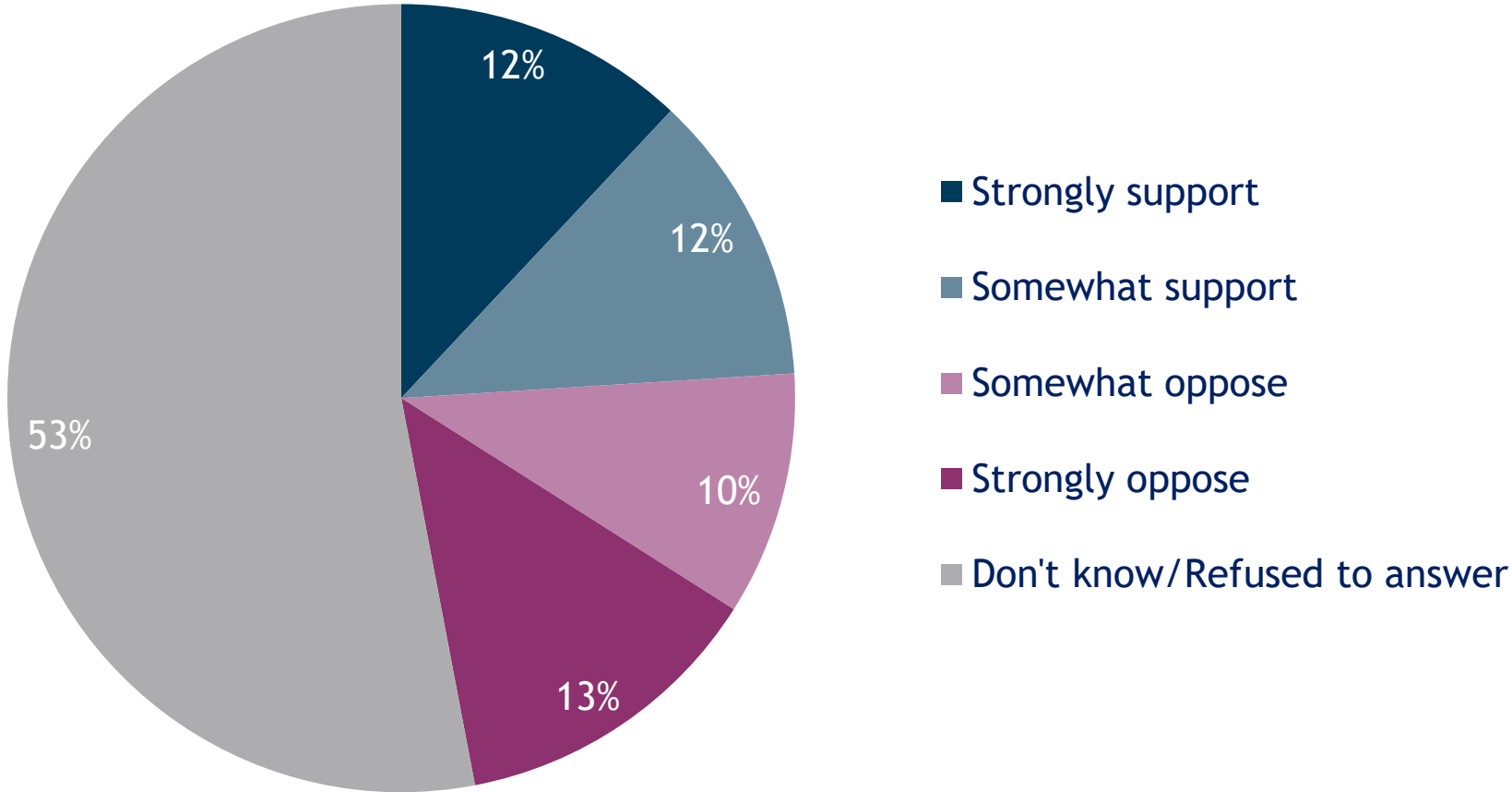- ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

7%
29%
20%
12%
33%

Opinions on Khaleda Zia

Thinking now about her recent trial, do you support or oppose the court's conviction and jailing of Khaleda Zia on corruption charges?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know/Refused to answer

If Khaleda Zia is unable to participate in the national elections, would you support or oppose Bangladesh Nationalist Party boycotting the elections? And would you strongly or somewhat support/oppose?
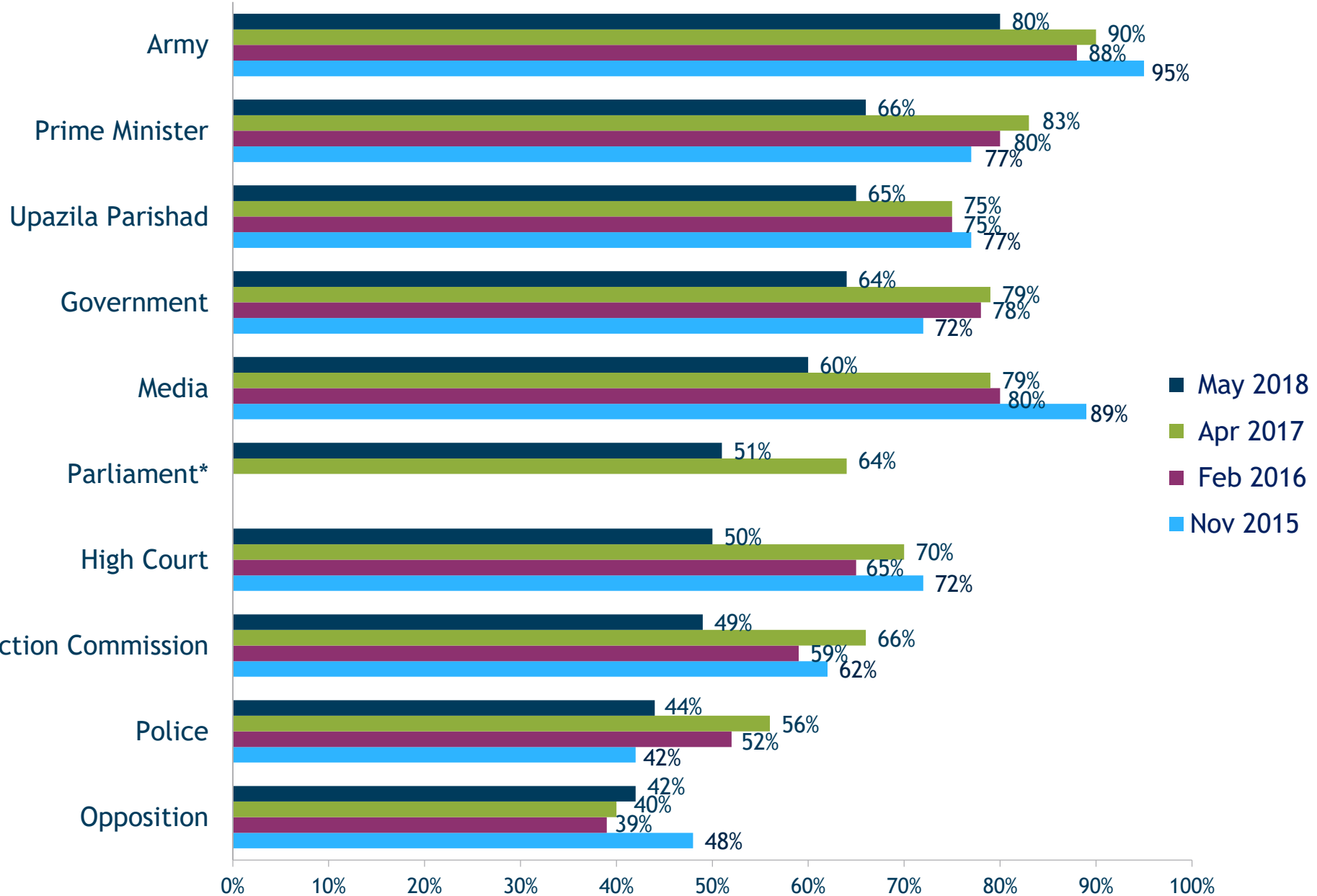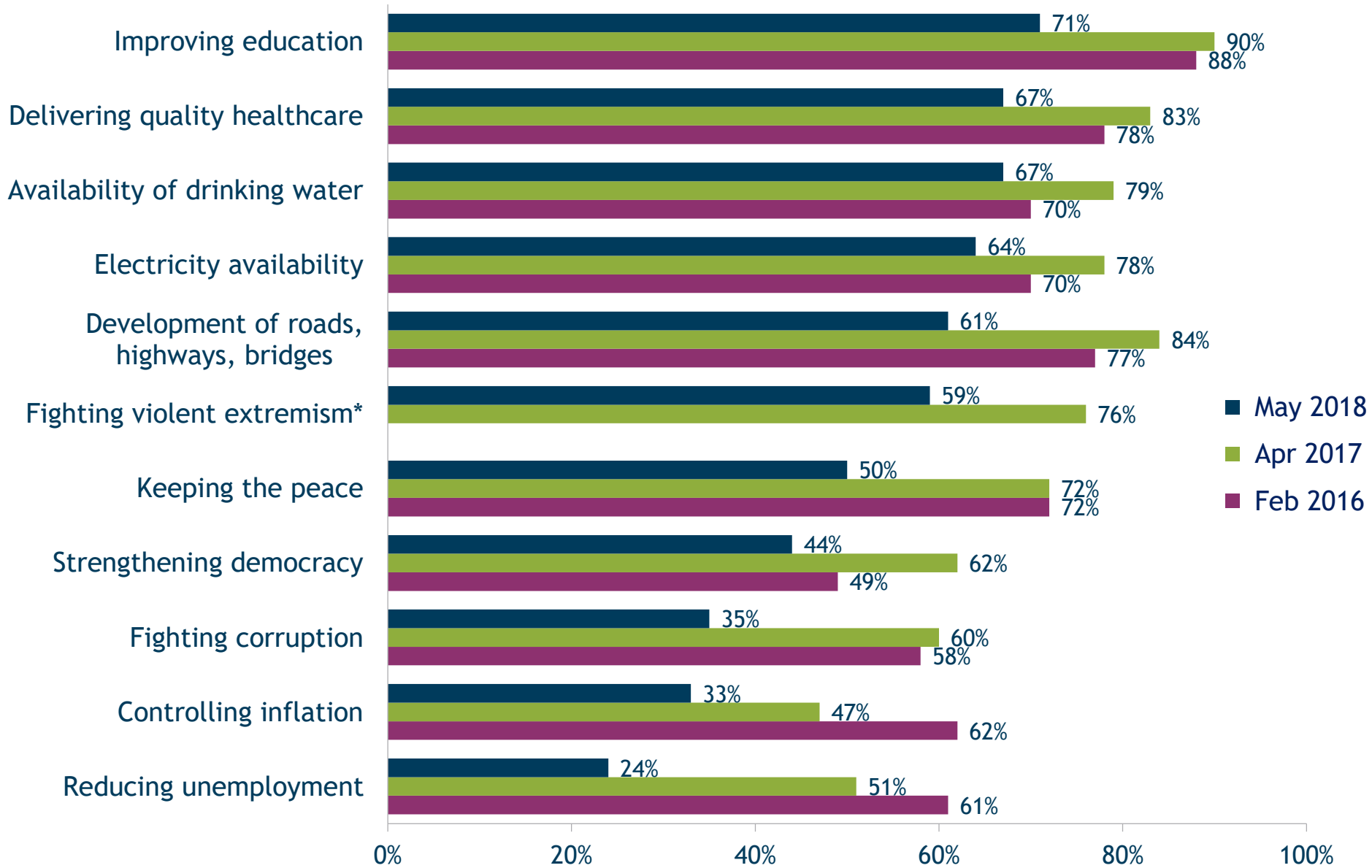

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know/Refused to answer
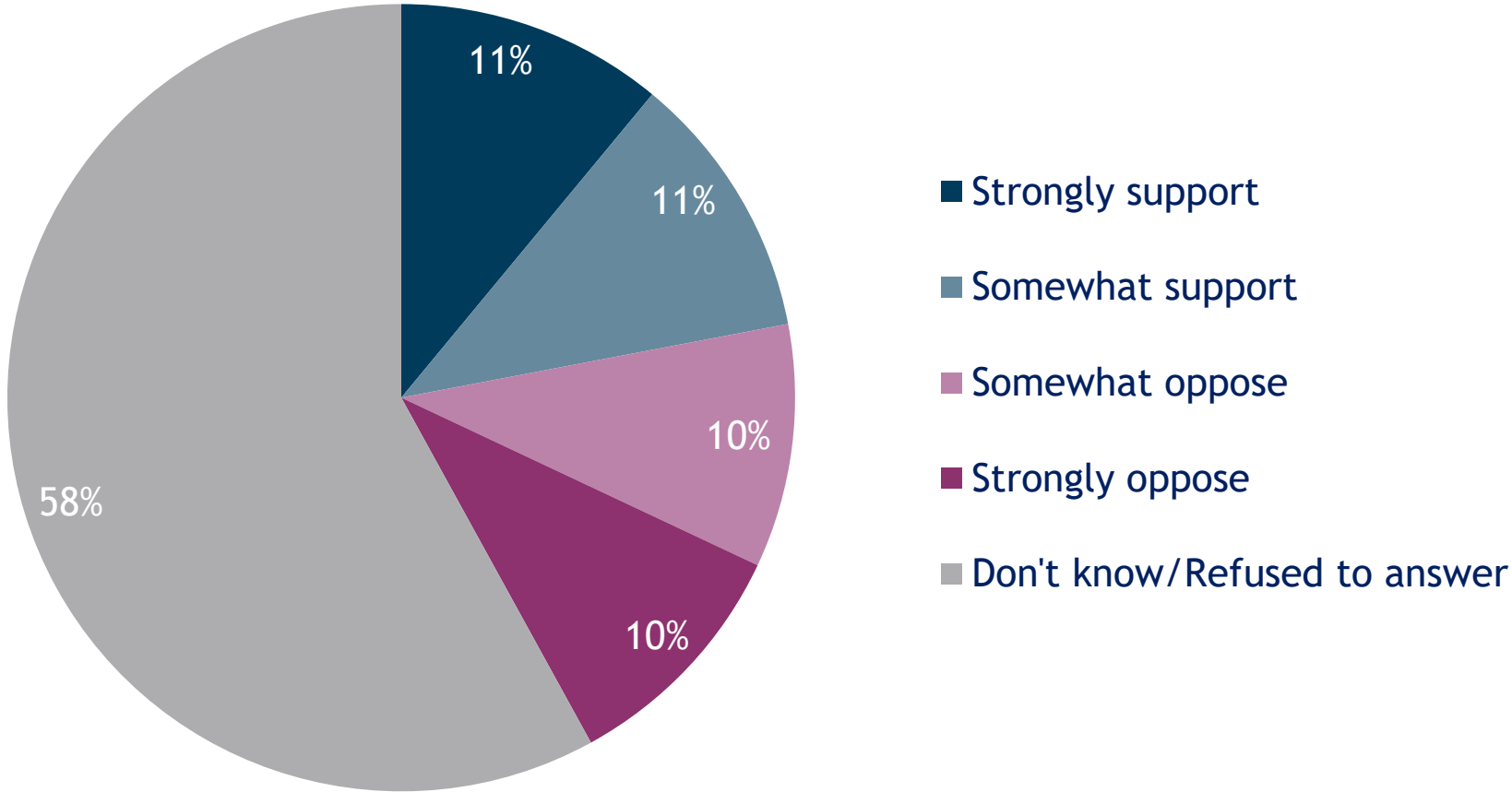
Approval Ratings

Do you approve or disapprove of the job being done by the following? (Respondents who approve)

Army
- May 2018: 80%
- Apr 2017: 90%
- Feb 2016: 88%
- Nov 2015: 95%

Prime Minister
- May 2018: 66%
- Apr 2017: 83%
- Feb 2016: 80%
- Nov 2015: 77%

Upazila Parishad
- May 2018: 65%
- Apr 2017: 75%
- Feb 2016: 75%
- Nov 2015: 77%

Government
- May 2018: 64%
- Apr 2017: 79%
- Feb 2016: 78%
- Nov 2015: 72%

Media
- May 2018: 60%
- Apr 2017: 79%
- Feb 2016: 80%
- Nov 2015: 89%

Parliament*
- May 2018: 51%
- Apr 2017: 64%

High Court
- May 2018: 50%
- Apr 2017: 70%
- Feb 2016: 65%
- Nov 2015: 72%

Election Commission
- May 2018: 49%
- Apr 2017: 66%
- Feb 2016: 59%
- Nov 2015: 62%

Police
- May 2018: 44%
- Apr 2017: 56%
- Feb 2016: 52%
- Nov 2015: 42%

Opposition
- May 2018: 42%
- Apr 2017: 40%
- Feb 2016: 39%
- Nov 2015: 48%

Legend:
- May 2018
- Apr 2017
- Feb 2016
- Nov 2015

*Not asked in previous surveys.

On each of these issues, how would you rate the national government?
(Percentages shown are total responding "strongly approve" and "somewhat approve")

Improving education
- May 2018: 71%
- Apr 2017: 90%
- Feb 2016: 88%

Delivering quality healthcare
- May 2018: 67%
- Apr 2017: 83%
- Feb 2016: 78%

Availability of drinking water
- May 2018: 67%
- Apr 2017: 79%
- Feb 2016: 70%

Electricity availability
- May 2018: 64%
- Apr 2017: 78%
- Feb 2016: 70%

Development of roads, highways, bridges
- May 2018: 61%
- Apr 2017: 84%
- Feb 2016: 77%

Fighting violent extremism*
- May 2018: 59%
- Apr 2017: 76%

Keeping the peace
- May 2018: 50%
- Apr 2017: 72%
- Feb 2016: 72%

Strengthening democracy
- May 2018: 44%
- Apr 2017: 62%
- Feb 2016: 49%

Fighting corruption
- May 2018: 35%
- Apr 2017: 60%
- Feb 2016: 58%

Controlling inflation
- May 2018: 33%
- Apr 2017: 47%
- Feb 2016: 62%

Reducing unemployment
- May 2018: 24%
- Apr 2017: 51%
- Feb 2016: 61%

Legend:
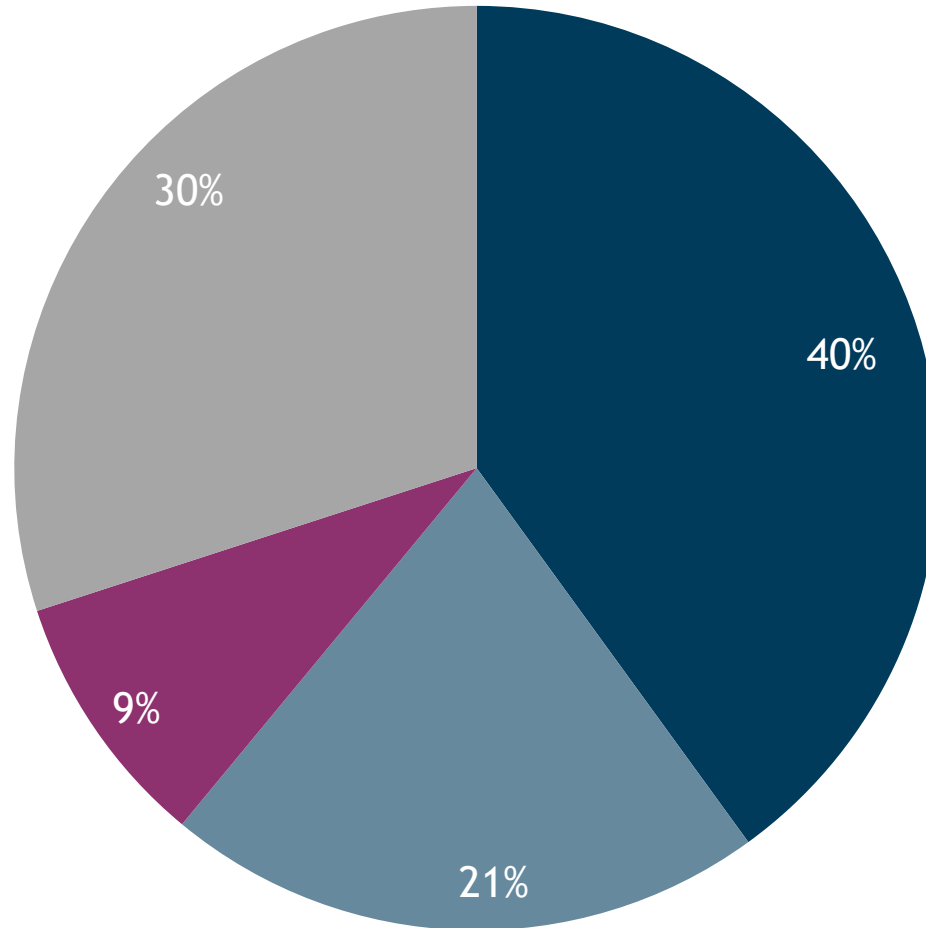- ■ May 2018
- ■ Apr 2017
- ■ Feb 2016

*This issue was not asked in previous surveys.

Political Parties

How important is it to you that the Awami League-led government seek input from other political parties and include them in the decision-making process?
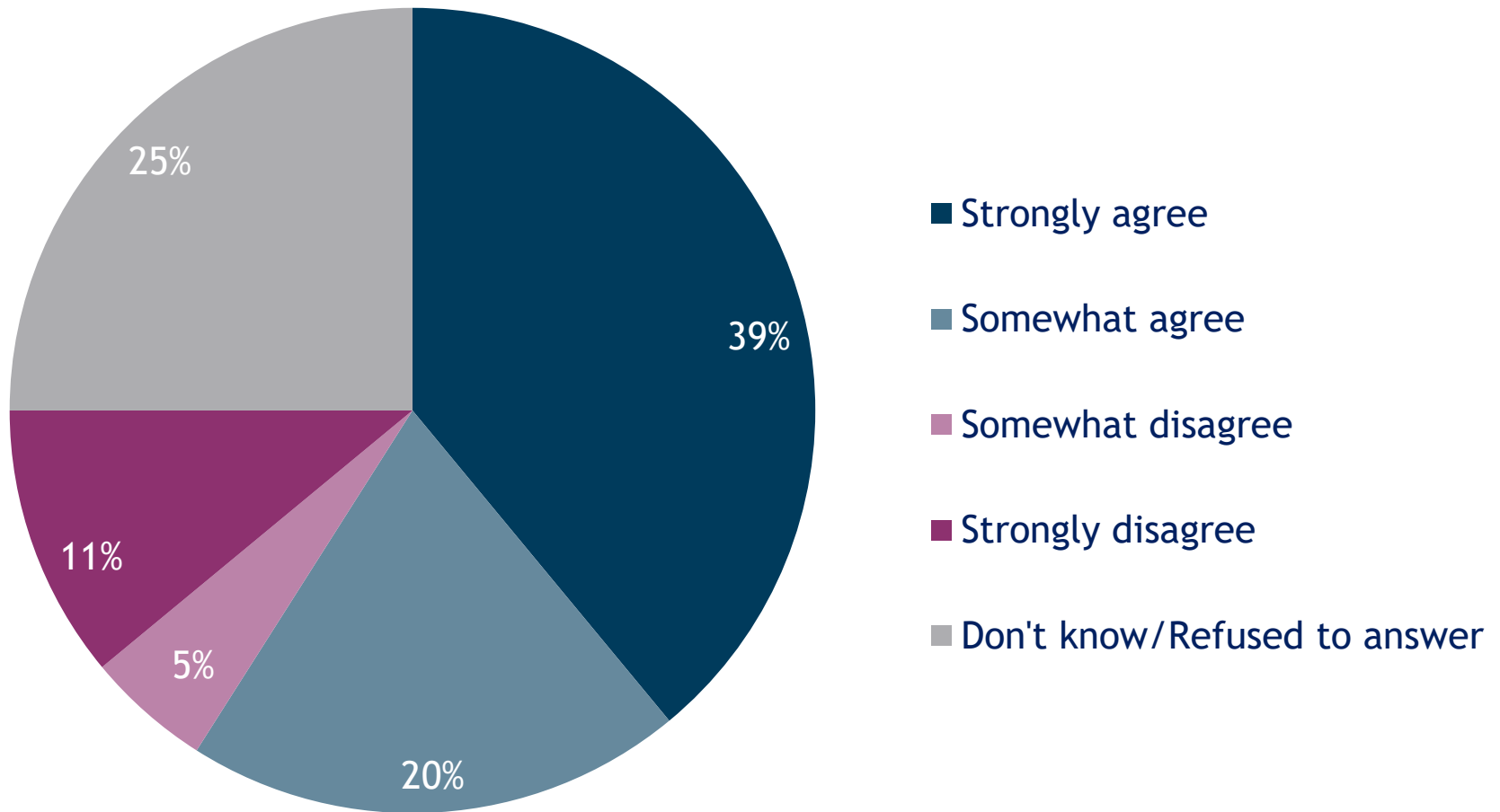

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important at all
- Don't know/Refused to answer

Would you say you agree or disagree with the statement that the BNP and the Awami League are capable of putting aside their differences and working together to solve the problems facing Bangladesh?
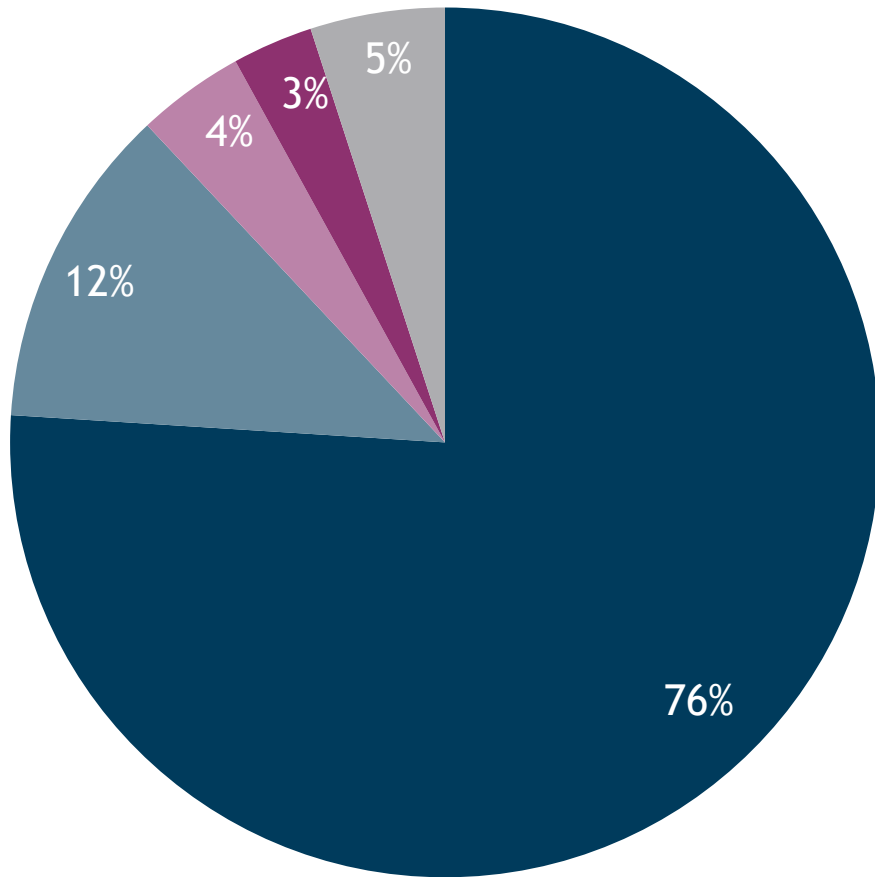

- ■ Strongly agree
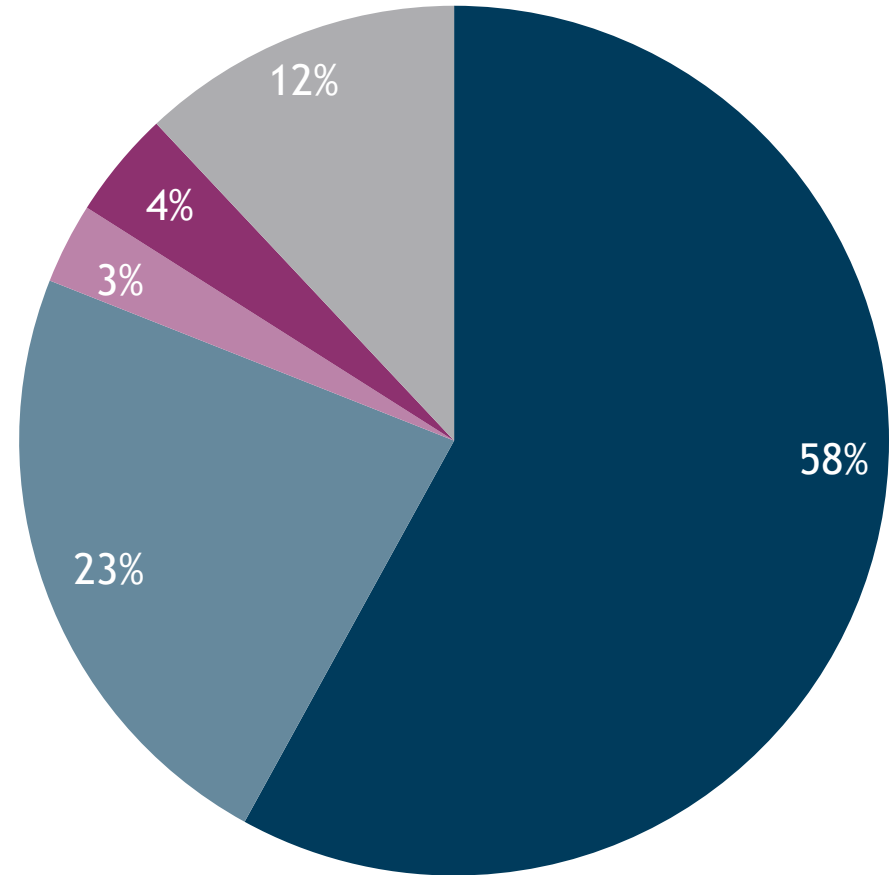- ■ Somewhat agree
- ■ Somewhat disagree
- ■ Strongly disagree
- ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Pie chart values: 39%, 20%, 5%, 11%, 25%

Elections

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How likely, if at all, are you to vote in the next national parliamentary elections?

Apr 2017

- 76% — Very likely
- 12% — Somewhat likely
- 4% — Somewhat unlikely
- 3% — Very unlikely
- 5% — Don't know/Refused to answer

May 2018

- 58% — Very likely
- 23% — Somewhat likely
- 3% — Somewhat unlikely
- 4% — Very unlikely
- 12% — Don't know/Refused to answer

Legend: ■ Very likely ■ Somewhat likely ■ Somewhat unlikely ■ Very unlikely ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Demographics

Monthly Household Income

Less than 10,000 *taka**	41%
10,001-25,000 *taka*	41%
25,001-50,000 *taka*	11%
50,000+ *taka*	3%

Division

Dhaka	33%
Chittagong	20%
Rajshahi	13%
Khulna	11%
Rangpur	11%
Sylhet	7%
Barisal	6%

Education

Cannot read or write	9%
Can only write/read own name	15%
Literate/No formal schooling	2%
Class 1-4	11%
Class 5-9	33%
Secondary school certificate/*Dakhil*	13%
Higher Secondary Certificate	9%
Bachelor's Degree	5%
Graduate Degree	2%

Age

18-30	35%
31-40	27%
41-50	19%
51-60	12%
61+	7%

Religion

Sunni Muslim	89%
Shiite Muslim	4%
Hindu	8%
Buddhist	<1%
Christian	<1%

Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

Area

Rural	76%
Urban	24%

Married

Yes	89%
No	11%

*At the time of survey fieldwork, 80 Bangladeshi *taka* was equivalent to $1 USD.

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